

Government retreat may avert national coal strike

An official national miners' strike may be averted after unexpected concessions last night. The Government and the coal board agreed to withdraw the plan for 23 pit closures and to provide more state aid. Government circles agreed that the Prime Minister's paramount consideration had been to avoid an official strike [Page 3].

Pit closure programme halted

Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, said the threatened national strike may be averted after a sudden retreat by the Government and the National Coal Board last night. More aid is to be made available to the industry and the plan for pit closures has been withdrawn. Under increasing pressure on unofficial strikes that are piling up, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, agreed to big concessions on the minimum of coal exports and cash limits for the year. Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, was hopeful after the "hour crisis" meeting in which a 25-member executive, this morning will not recommend a strike at the nation's 240,000 pits. "I hope the explanation we all give to the executive will be enough to convince them there is no need for a ballot", said Mr Gormley. "The whole situation is fluid." It became clear late last night, however, that the left of the Cabinet by continuing and extending the unofficial strikes that are engulfing more than half the coalfields. In Yorkshire, eight pits, including the nation's largest, Kellingley, were reported to be out, and the miners' pact to win further backing in it and other coalfields. Mr Michael McGahay, vice-president of the NUM and a prominent leader of the strike, said: "I am very far from satisfied with the strike, which only amounts to a promise to review the situation. On the real issues there is no concrete agreement." But the expectation, left by Mr Gormley, was that Mr McGahay, reshaping his 15 to 100,000 members of moderate votes, the NUM executive could still pressure to go to a not-necessarily-binding ballot of the men in a recommendation for the action.

The board's withdrawal of the closure programme, within hours of completing its announcement, is expected to weigh heavily with the moderate majority. Mr Howell, flanked by junior ministers from the Welsh and Scottish offices and the Department of Industry, is understood to have told the mining unions that coal imports would fall from eight million tonnes to five and a half million tonnes this year, and the Government would provide aid to reduce that figure still further. There would be more cash to ease the financial difficulties of the coal board, from which operating subsidies are being withdrawn under the Coal Industry Act 1980. Mr Gormley said: "The Government has indicated that they are willing to make cash available to help the import situation and help the board's financial position. On that basis the board has withdrawn the statement they made on February 10 [the closure programme]."

The miners will now discuss with the board the industry's future within a more relaxed financial framework, but there will still be some colliery closures. "We have already admitted that there will have to be pit closures", Mr Gormley said. "Pits will close. That is a statement of fact. They come to the end of their life."

Further talks with Mr Howell are planned for next Wednesday when the size of the Government's help for the industry will become clearer. Mr Gormley would only say it would be a lot of money. He did not deny that it could run into hundreds of millions of pounds. After last night's announcement, Mr Emyr Williams, president of the miners in South Wales, said the strike in his area would continue until the closure threat was withdrawn. In all parts of Britain, an area delegates conference would be needed before the South Wales strike could be called off, he added. Mr Jack Collins, the NUM's Kent area secretary, said Kent miners would not return to work until they receive "certain safeguards". He added: "We are dealing with cunning people and, for the present, the Kent miners have a guarded mistrust of the new situation."

The unofficial miners' strike spread rapidly yesterday before the announcement to Durham, Scotland, and Staffordshire. All the Scottish pits were at a standstill by last night. In Yorkshire, the NUM area council meeting has been brought forward by three days to tomorrow.

At the last round of local talks, earlier yesterday, the National Coal Board had announced five further colliery closures in Scotland and Yorkshire, bringing the final tally under the now-withdrawn shutdown programme to 23 and the number of jobs to be lost to 13,057. The men in Scotland had begun to walk out even before area management disclosed the intention to close Cardowan (1,178 jobs), High House (320), and Sorn (229). In addition to Lady Victoria (368), the closure of which had already been agreed.

At the Yorkshire meeting the closures of Manor (250 jobs) and Park Hill (450) collieries were announced, in addition to Orgrave (520), which was already named, and Loft-house (600), which has been agreed.

The strike in Durham began when miners at the doomed Sacriston colliery stopped work and went to picket the other mines named for closure. The men also struck at the Victoria pit in Staffordshire, which is listed for closure, and the Welsh miners set out to other coalfields to spread the unofficial action that has halted their colliery and Kent.

Miners in South Wales are also pickinget power stations, beginning at Abercraf, near Barry, South Glamorgan. The Central Electricity Generating Board said it was going into any of the four power stations in South Wales, but there were stocks of 586,000 tonnes, enough for about five weeks. Coal crisis, page 3



Miss Susan Brown, aged 22, who will become the first woman to appear in the 152 years of the University Boat Race when she coxes the Oxford crew against Cambridge on April 4 to retain the Ladbrooke Trophy.

Miss Brown, from Honiton in Devon, is an undergraduate at Wadham College and competed in the 1980 Olympics as cox to the women's four and also coxed the Oxford women's eight. Report, page 11.

Iran admits that jailed Britons are innocent

From Tony Allaway, Tehran, Feb 18. An Iranian Christian has confessed to forging documents that led to the imprisonment of three British missionaries for months. A fourth Briton, Mr Andrew Pyke, has also been held. Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, the head of the Supreme Court, said that the four Britons, who have been jailed since August, would be freed "perhaps in a very short time". The confession would be filmed and shown on Iranian television, he added. Ayatollah Beheshti told a press conference the four could leave prison after "administrative operations" had been completed. Asked when this might happen, he said: "I don't think it will be so long. But I don't know the details."

Diplomats were encouraged by the ayatollah's comments, which contradicted recent statements by Iranian officials that the Britons might be put on trial. Ayatollah Beheshti did not explain why the statements conflicted and left several other questions unanswered. He would not explain what the Iranian's confession should relate to Mr Pyke, a businessman whose case was not understood to be related to those of the three Iranian missionaries in prison. Miss Jean Waddell, and Dr John and Dr Audrey Coleman are the three missionaries. The ayatollah would not comment on what was keeping the four in prison. "I don't decide all this because the decision should be taken by a normal court, not the Supreme Court, and what I say is only the report on the case which the Revolutionary Court in Tehran has given to me."

He said the Iranian who had confessed to forging the documents, which purported to show employment in the oil industry, was an employee of "one of the Christian missions in Iran". It was assumed he was referring to the Anglican Mission based in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, where a series of violent attacks have been blamed on members of the Church since the revolution.

Continued on page 7, col 3

Biggest tax cuts and spending curbs in first Reagan budget

From Frank Vogel, US Economics Correspondent, Washington, Feb 18. The largest programme of tax cuts and non-military public spending cuts ever proposed by a United States Administration, was announced tonight by President Reagan. The programme demonstrates concern at the White House to strengthen national security by proposing a \$90,000m increase (\$40,000m) over the next four years in defence spending to a 1984 total of \$250,000m. The programme is designed to stimulate private investment and savings and reduce the Government's role in the economy. Public spending, as a percentage of gross national product, is planned to fall from about 23 per cent today to approximately 19 per cent in four years. A dramatic slow-down in the growth rate of public spending is proposed. Increases will be limited to 6 per cent compared to the 16 per cent of the last two years. In order to achieve this, while boosting defence spending, huge cuts are proposed in many areas—including a 29 per cent reduction in federal aid.

The President's economic advisers predicted that the new programme will gradually reduce inflation, from today's 11 per cent to a projected 5.5 per cent by 1984. They also forecast that the budget will be balanced by 1984 and that economic growth, in real terms, will exceed 4 per cent next year and in subsequent years, after the 1.1 per cent achieved this year.

Many of the public spending cuts are so far-reaching that President Reagan will find exceptional difficulty getting all his programme through Congress. Large cuts are proposed, for example, in extended unemployment benefits, government support of a special black lung trust fund and in government supported health, food, education, housing and energy programmes. The tax burden on all Americans will be reduced by 30 per cent over the next three years and a half. Capital gains taxes will be gradually reduced and large tax incentives are proposed for business in order to stimulate investment in new plant and equipment. The Administration promised that as soon as Congress has enacted these tax cuts a new set of tax cutting proposals will be outlined to encourage individual saving and investment. Direct spending cuts of \$41,400m are proposed for the 1982 fiscal year, starting on October 1 but additional savings are advocated through increased support for charges and cuts in credit programmes so that overall Government spending might be down by \$50,000m from the level proposed by the Carter Administration.

The combination of tax and spending cuts will reduce the budget deficit in the 1982 fiscal year by some \$9,000m to \$45,000m. This is expected to be halved in the 1983 fiscal year with a tiny surplus being seen in 1984. The Administration says the budget deficits will be financed by increased savings resulting from the tax cuts and not by borrowing.

Foreign aid in the 1982 fiscal year is to be cut by \$1,854m to \$5,592m. Specific details were not announced today. The Administration also seeks considerable reorganisation in the management of many government programmes. More than 40 separate health programmes have been brought together into a scheme where large block grants will be given for state and local government use as appropriate. President's call, page 6. Rough medicine, page 19.

Mr Harold Evans will become 'Times' editor next month

By Dan van der Vat. The number of battles Mr Evans has fought will be long remembered. One of his heroes is the great Victorian editor, W. T. Stead, and it was from the editorial chair once occupied by that outstanding campaigner, at the Northern Echo in Darlington, that Mr Evans successfully pursued his campaign for a free pardon for the wrongly convicted and hanged Timothy Evans. After five years editing the Northern Echo, during which he won a Newspaper Design Award for reshaping the paper, Mr Evans became chief assistant to the editor of The Sunday Times, then Mr (later Sir) Denis Hamilton, in 1966, and was made joint managing editor shortly afterwards. He became editor in January 1967. The period has been marked by a long series of spectacular investigations, ranging from the Savundra car insurance swindle to false labelling of wine, from quackery-rigging in Parliament to brutality towards prisoners in Ulster and Israel, sanctions busting in Rhodesia, safety in the nuclear and a string of financial investigations—worthy of the Fraud Squad. The air at 200 Gray's Inn Road was often thick with writs. The longest and hardest struggle of them all was the fight against the Balfour case, the effects of which still rumble on in Parliament. An investigation of the unique tragedy, in which a sedative taken by thousands of pregnant women produced appalling deformities in their children, was completed in 1971, 11 years after it began. Writs prevented its publication. Mr Evans fought the case all the way to the House of Lords and lost. Refusing to give up, he took the case to the European Commission of Human Rights, which found in his favour. The European Court of Human Rights followed suit, finding that the suppression of the article was an infringement of freedom of expression and making it necessary for Britain to reconsider its laws and rules on contempt of court. Among many awards, Mr Evans was named Journalist of the Year in the British IPC awards for 1973, International Editor of the Year 1975 by the American Allie World Press Review and received the gold medal of the Institute of Journalists in Britain in 1979. Mr Giles is 62 and joined The Times as a foreign correspondent after war service and a period in the Foreign Office, including a time as private secretary to Mr Ernest Bevin. He joined The Sunday Times in 1961, a post he gave up in 1977. He will have two joint deputy editors: Mr Hugo Young, the present political editor, and Mr Ron Hall, editor of the paper's magazine.



Mr Harold Evans: Fighter of many memorable battles.

Nuclear spending attacked by MPs

Nicholas Hirst. An all-party parliamentary committee has questioned a need for a nuclear power programme of the size intended by the Government. In a sharply worded report, the committee, made up of members from all parties, criticises the demand for nuclear power as a costly and unnecessary experiment. The report does not attack a need for nuclear power, but it claims that the payment of Energy has not led sufficient attention to the value of the savings on the cost of the programme, equal to 1980 prices, of £15,000m. The committee believes that the case for new generating capacity must be very persuasive. It remains unconvinced that there is an economic or industrial reason for the size of the programme mentioned in the 14 points ago by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State. Mr Howell said that the Government would allow two fast-breeder advanced gas-cooled reactors to be ordered, subject to a public inquiry. American-designed pressurised water reactor. It would aim to order a station a year from 1982, with the choice of reactor after the PWR left open. The select committee's strongest criticism is reserved for the Central Electricity Generating Board. The committee said it was made aware that the board had a reputation as "bureaucratic and unhelpful". Its demand forecasts were revised downwards within weeks of its first evidence to the committee from 52,000 megawatts to 48,500 megawatts. The committee believes the figures were being revised downwards, even if precise figures were not known. "The credibility of much of the CEB's subsequent evidence was undermined by this omission," the report says. The committee was deeply unhappy at the assumptions on cost produced by the CEB, which implied that an American pressurised water reactor built in the United Kingdom would cost 24 per cent more than one built elsewhere. It recommends that the Secretary of State for Energy should order an immediate independent assessment of the suitability of the Canadian design, which has not so far figured seriously in decisions about which system should be built in Britain. Leading article, page 15.

6% pay limit fixed for public sector

By David Felton, Labour Reporter. The Government formally declared its intention last night to impose a 6 per cent limit on pay increases for about 1.7 million people directly employed by the state. The announcement produced, predictably, a hostile reaction from public service unions. The cash limit, which was announced in a Commons written answer by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been foreshadowed by the 6 per cent pay offer already made to 530,000 white collar civil servants, and to more than 200,000 hospital ancillary staff and ambulance men. Sir Geoffrey also announced that the cash limit for public sector expenditure, excepting pay, would be 11 per cent. The limit announced last November for local authorities. The limit for pay will apply to settlements due before August 1 and provisionally for settlements after that date. The 6 per cent offer to the white collar civil servants has been continued on page 2, col 4.

Pay settlements leaving single figures

Cost pay settlements are approaching single-figure levels. Department of Employment figures for December show a rise in average earnings of 10 per cent a year, and the results in the Confederation of British Industry's pay database show that settlements are averaging between 8 and 9 per cent, down from an average of more than 12 per cent in July and 13 per cent in August. Page 19.

Rises of 6pc proposed in EEC farm prices

The European Commission has proposed increases in farm produce prices ranging between 6 and 12 per cent. The proposals also incorporate measures to reduce mounting food surpluses. The net cost to the Community budget is put at about £220m. The increases still have to be agreed among the agricultural ministers of the ten. Page 6.

Polish student pact

The threat of a nationwide strike by Polish students has been removed by an agreement reached between the London University students and Mr Gorski, the Minister of Education. It gives the students the right to form an independent union and grants most demands of an academic character. Page 6.

16 martyrs beatified

Sixteen priests and laymen who were tortured to death by the Japanese in the seventeenth century have been beatified by the Pope. Three million Filipinos watched the ceremony in Manila. Page 7.

Judge orders 16 airlines to hand over £2m

A High Court judge ordered 16 foreign airlines to pay £2m to the British Airports Authority in 21 days. The sum is the increase in landing charges imposed at Heathrow, London, from last April, which the airlines with-held and are disputing in a legal action. Page 5.

England lose by innings

Despite a brave innings of 70 by Boycott, England lost the first Test against West Indies by an innings and 79 runs. Boycott batted for five and a quarter hours but none of his colleagues matched him and England's second innings folded at 169 all out. Page 11.

Rickets campaign: The Government begin a campaign to eradicate rickets among Asians in Britain

Demonstrations: MP's approve clause in Bill that demands 72 hours' notice of public demonstrations. Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 25, 28; La crème de la crème, 26; Recruitment opportunities, 25; Property, 17.

Leader page 15	Letters: On SAS and embassy attack, from Brigadier J. H. Simpson, and Dr Graham Zelik; the economy, from Professor Wynne Godley; Canada, from Professor Hestley Bull	Cricket: Allan Lamb available for England next year; Rugby Union: Yorkshire object to Burgess report; Badminton: Mrs Gills withdraws from All-England championships; Football: Three players opt of England under-21 party	Stock markets: Equities again benefited from selective buying. Gills encountered buying on hopes of a rise in M.L.R. today and the FT index closed 3.8 higher at 489.3	Financial Editor: Dalgely resists takeover benefits; Uncertain times at BOC	Business features: Margaret Stone looks at the role of personnel savings in funding the public sector borrowing requirement; Melvyn Westlake, in 'Economic Notebook', on the ups and downs of the major international currencies; Ross Davies's Business Diary
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HOME NEWS

Slide towards national water strike gathers momentum

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The gradual move towards Britain's first national water strike continued yesterday when delegates representing 3,000 water and sewerage workers in south-east and southern England voted overwhelmingly to reject the employers' "final" offer of pay rises of 10 per cent.

Yesterday's vote, which came as an unofficial action spread in the North-east, means that more than half of the members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union employed in the industry have rejected the offer. The only reversal for the unions came from representatives of 1,500 members of the National Union of Public Employees in the Midlands, who voted to accept the offer.

It was argued in union circles that the Midlands vote is unlikely to be representative of NUPE's 10,000 members in the industry and has been influenced by special factors such as large bonuses earned by employees of the Severn-Trent Water Authority.

Despite the Midlands vote, delegates at the conference indicated their support for an official national action called by the union leadership, including a strike. Mr Gordon Will, NUPE assistant divisional officer, said after the meeting: "It was a question of judging the offer in the light of the present unfavourable economic climate."

Yesterday's meeting of the GMWU's southern region members at Chesham, Surrey, rejected the offer by an overwhelming majority. Mr John Holland, the union's south-east regional officer, said he was sure that workers in the area would support a strike call.

"The delegates agreed to support any action called by the union negotiators. They felt the Government was interfering with free collective bargaining and they are unhappy about it," he said.

The delegates indicated that they would continue to seek a £20-a-week increase, which was the main component of a claim for rises of 30 per cent lodged by the four unions last October on behalf of the 32,000 water and sewerage workers in England and Wales.

Further delegate meetings are to be held over the next few days, with GMWU meetings today in Birmingham and Liverpool. It is expected that an overall majority of water workers in favour of a national strike. NUPE conferences in the North-east and London have also voted for strike action.

Union negotiators are due to meet next Wednesday to consider the results of the consultations, and if there is no improvement in the offer from the employers they are likely to give notice of strike action.

Over time ban: All water and sewerage workers joined the unofficial overtime ban in Northumberland yesterday refusing to handle any calls outside normal working hours except emergencies (John Withers writes from Durham).

About 340 GMWU NUPE members are involved in the three-day-old dispute in Northumberland and Weirside. The two unions have decided to call for a strike from next Monday in Northumberland unless the employers improve their pay offer.

The work to rule means that burst mains are not being dealt with immediately.

Peace move by BL in Jaguar plant dispute

From Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

In an unexpected move last night BL Cars offered an olive branch to the leaders of its white-collar unions which could end the campaign of work sanctions in protest at compulsory redundancies.

The company said it would not proceed with the remaining 700 compulsory redundancies until the unions would agree to lift their ban on overtime, refusal to allow work to be contracted out and other restrictions on normal working.

The concession has apparently been made possible because increasing numbers of volunteers have come forward since talks broke down last week. It is understood that 200 staff have volunteered in the past 10 days.

With the 200 compulsory redundancies already announced this week, that means BL will be only 400 short of the 4,250 staff redundancies it is seeking by March 31. The management is now reasonably confident that the remaining gap will be closed before that date.

Attempts to increase the sanctions into an all-out strike at the Jaguar plant, Coventry, appear to have run out of steam. A confused meeting of 1,000 Jaguar staff ended on Tuesday without a vote being taken and attempts to call a second meeting have found little support.

The men were initially angered by the speed with which 50 Jaguar staff were made redundant. They have handed their notices on Monday and told to leave the same day.

Select committee, page 19

The centre in turmoil, 4: Signs of firm support for the social democrats from new towns

Shirley Williams territory sets the pace of change

By Michael Horsnell

Stevenson, first of the post-war new towns, does not yet possess the kind of history that would allow it to erect statues to its most eminent burgesses.

When the time arrives Shirley Williams, MP for Bedford and Stevenage until 1979, will be a strong candidate for a commemorative plaque at least, somewhere between Woolworth on the pedestrian shopping centre and the clock tower, unveiled by the Queen in 1958.

Mrs Williams, a local heroine by any standards, may be said to have turned this raw young town in Hertfordshire into the birthplace of social democracy, as the giants of the Labour movement turned Hampstead, in London, into the intellectual home of socialism.

If the centre is in turmoil then Stevenage is a hotbed, a crucible, for a large proportion of electors from all three parties are promising to follow their "Shirley" to Timbuctoo if she should choose to go there.

Even more encouraging for the embryonic social democratic party are the indications that support for it is throughout the "soft" South-east as firm as it is in Williams territory.

At Basildon, nearly 50 miles away across the county border in Essex, nearly 35 per cent of those canvassed said they would support such a party and only 25 per cent said they would not.

But support for the social democrats in the even newer town of Basildon derives mainly from disenchanting Labour voters and Liberals anxious to do a deal.

About one in three electors across the political board in Stevenage say they will support Mrs Williams, who has severed her connections with the local constituency Labour Party despite an emotional appeal by the party's agent, Mr James Caldwell.

Only 25 per cent of those canvassed said they would not support a new party. But that number may increase if Mrs Williams is not chosen as its leader.

Mrs Wendy Skidgins, aged 23, a housewife and mother, who voted Labour at the last election, said: "I would follow Shirley Williams to Timbuctoo, she is that good for Stevenage and the country, and I would probably vote for the social democrats even if she is not the leader. The party offers something new, away from the old extremes."

Mr Robert Walker, aged 27, a test-rig operator, who voted Liberal last time, said: "You can count me in as long as the two parties get together. Otherwise they have no chance. I would prefer David Steele to lead it but Shirley Williams would do fine."

Mr Peter Thomas, a businessman, aged 50, said: "I voted Conservative with some pleasure and I am not too happy with what they have done to my business. I could not vote for Michael Foot, but Roy Jenkins of Mrs Williams? Maybe, if the Tories do not stop cutting our throats."

Stevenage, a town with a population of 74,000 and 7.8 per cent unemployment, lies to the north-west of the Hertford and Stevenage constituency. The old county town of Hertford and the pretty villages that sit between it and the new industrial town are responsible for handing the seat to the Conservative candidate, Mr Bowen Wells, with a majority of 1,296, in 1979.

Support for Mrs Williams outside Stevenage is less certain in the sense that traditional Conservative voters are less likely to change than those Tories in Stevenage who disapproved more of her former

party ticket than of Mrs Williams herself.

But Stevenage is expected to form a new constituency under Boundary Commission proposals, a change which would almost guarantee a seat for Mrs Williams as a social democrat.

Basildon, a district whose population has increased from 30,000 in 1947 to 155,000 last year as it consumed London's postwar overspill, elected Mr Harvey Proctor, the Conservative, with a majority of 5,180 in 1979.

While the new town is substantially Labour, support for Mr Proctor comes largely from the old-established and expanding towns of Wickford and Billericay.

The home of Ford's European Trucks division, Basildon, is the second largest constituency in England and Wales and is also the subject of a Boundary Commission proposal that would make it a constituency in its own right.

With doubled unemployment in the past year, Basildon stands as a warning to the main parties, particularly Labour, not to make its difficulties lightly. The Labour vote threatens to drift substantially to a social democratic party regardless of

its leader and regardless of the views of its former Labour MP, Mr Eric Moonman, who was unseated last time.

And Conservative women, enjoying the taste of a female Prime Minister though not the unemployment situation, are enthusiastic about the possible emergence of another woman at the helm.

Miss Joan Peters, aged 23, a secretary, said: "I voted Conservative, but not to put my boy friend out of work. I like the idea of a woman Prime Minister but Mrs Thatcher must not assume she will have my vote next time. The people here want jobs; they know they are not going to lose and a sensible mortgage rate."

Mr James Clarke, aged 73, a retired postman, approached Mrs Williams when he had trouble over his pension. She saw him and sorted out his difficulty. A Labour voter, he said: "I cannot think of a better recommendation than that for supporting her cause. I am not sure about any difference in policies, but if she stands between the two extremes and her policies mean I can pay my electricity bills then I am on her side."

Next: Geoffrey Smith sums up

LT forecast of fall in traffic share

By Jacob Ecclesstone

London Transport's share of passenger traffic in the capital is forecast to fall from its present level of 30 per cent to 25 per cent by 1990. In a report to the Commons Select Committee on Public Transport, the London Transport Executive said yesterday that demand was decreasing while costs increased.

Sir Peter Massfield, chairman of the executive, told the committee that passenger traffic had fallen by a million in the past 10 years. The reasons were greater use of private cars, a falling population and fewer tourists.

After talking of Paris, where demand for public transport was increasing because of lower fares, Sir Peter said he was not despondent. The prediction of a 25 per cent market share, he said, was 25 per cent of a growing market for travel.

When asked whether he was seeking bigger subsidies, he said that Paris was expanding its underground railway system. "Sadly for us, we have no new underground projects under way. I would like to see a policy for London in which we would dig up two miles of new underground a year," he said.

Sir Peter said that whereas London Transport had to meet 70 per cent of expenditure from fares, Paris met only 34 per cent and New York 28 per cent.

The managing director of London Transport's railway division, Dr T. M. Ridley, told the committee that successful public transport systems such as those in Hong Kong, Paris and Newcastle upon Tyne, had one thing in common.

"There is a united and wholehearted commitment to public transport which does not exist in London. The total community commitment is necessary to the wellbeing of the community, and that does not exist in London."

One of the main reasons for the declining use of London buses, Sir Peter told the committee, was traffic congestion. The scheduled bus speed on weekdays was declining year by year. It was now only 11mph.

BR may set-up body to run southern lines

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The possibility of a separate board to manage British Rail's Southern Region, particularly its London commuter services, is being considered by the Government, according to a report by the Secretary of State for Transport, said last night.

Speaking to *The New Standard* Commuter Club in London, Mr Fowler said that he was considering the possibility of a separate board to run the commuter services. He said that the current arrangement was not working well and that a new body might be needed to run the commuter services more effectively.

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'Militant' study by Labour urged

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Labour's national executive committee is being asked to release to MPs and constituency parties a submission by the party's leadership by the Trotskyist Militant Tendency about its organisation.

The request is especially relevant because it comes from Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, who is a member of the left-wing Tribune Group of Labour MPs.

Mr Field, in a letter to Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party, states that there should be serious discussion on whether the Militant Tendency as a group can remain within the party.

He states: "It may be that some of the parliamentary NEC members have Militant cells in their constituencies. If they did, then they would be more acquainted with what was happening."

Mr Field suggests that in order to do this, the NEC should, at its meeting next Wednesday, be asked to send copies of the Militant submission to every MP and constituency party and invite comments.

The submission of the Militant Tendency was one of a number which the NEC requested from fringe organisations; it was circulated to committee members last December, and was disclosed in *The Times*.

Mr Field says in his letter: "By asking the NEC to act in this way, I am not asking for a witch hunt against individuals. I believe that every single Militant member in my constituency has a right to be a member of the local Labour Party. But they do not have the right to organise as a party within a party."

"If the NEC would summon up the courage to act on this issue I think many Militant supporters would opt for single membership of the party. I am sure others would think differently and wish to conduct their campaign for Militancy outside the party."

Mr Field also draws attention to the fact that "there are other revolutionary groups who are now coming back into the party in a true mole-like fashion." He says that this in the range of revolutionary newspapers sold at the end of general management committee meetings.

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Callaghan view sought on dinner snub

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

An appeal has been made to Mr James Callaghan to indicate whether he approves of Mr Michael Foot's exclusion of Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers, MP, and Dr David Owen, MP, from a dinner being given for him tonight by his former senior colleagues.

Mr Callaghan keeps his silence yesterday. Labour's so-called "gang of three", it is now learnt, challenged Mr Foot on Tuesday to say whether it was Mr Callaghan's wish to have them excluded. They also apparently sought to get in touch with Mr Callaghan, but failed, as did reporters who rang his office at the Commons.

In a letter to Mr Foot, explaining how "offensive" he had found the exclusion, Mr Rodgers declared of Mr Callaghan: "I would like to think that he has not placed a ban on me for Thursday. It is not the sort of intolerance with which he has been associated."

It was learnt that Mr Edmund Dell, who had not been invited, by Mr Foot, will not be attending.

He was another of Mr Callaghan's former Cabinet colleagues who had declared his support for the Council for Social Democracy. He had not incurred Mr Foot's displeasure because he had not been deemed to have been actively campaigning against the Labour Party.

There was astonishment, hilarity and embarrassment among Labour MPs in reaction to the disclosure in *The Times* of Mr Foot's action.

Some shadow ministers said that they were not at the dinner, if only to say goodbye; others retorted that the three had no business coming when they were intent on setting up a party which would attack Labour.

There was even applause for Mr Foot for having taken firm action. But there was agreement that it had probably spoiled the occasion for Mr and Mrs Callaghan.

Some clarifications emerged yesterday. One was that Mr Foot had not written to Mrs Williams because, so it was said, the organisers had assumed from her first uncertain reply that she was not coming. And that had not returned Mrs Williams' cheque, as they had those of the other two, because none had been received.

Mrs Williams insisted that she had all along "hoped" to attend; she had written earlier that her schedule was uncertain because of television commitments. She could not be sure that her secretary had sent a cheque. But yesterday she made clear that had it not been for the last two days she would certainly have been in touch with the organisers to confirm both her attendance and her payment.

Dr Owen, said yesterday that he and his colleagues intended to mark the occasion in their own way. They would be sending Mr Callaghan a gift as a mark of their esteem.

Mr Benn's plea to party leader dismissed

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour Party leader, delivered his first snub to Mr Wedgwood Benn at a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet last night.

The argument centred on the Shadow Cabinet's views on the election of the leader and the special conference decision that a 40 per cent share of the electoral college should go to the trade unions, with the rest divided equally between the parliamentary party and the constituency parties.

Mr Benn put forward a motion that the special conference decision should be altered. When he failed to get a second, he proposed he should be permitted to put it to the parliamentary party.

Mr Foot told him that it would be wrong for minority views to go to the Shadow Cabinet to be discussed in the Shadow Cabinet. He also dismissed Mr Benn's technical argument that he was not a frontbench spokesman and had been elected by the PLP.

The Shadow Cabinet accepted a motion from Mr Peter Shore, spokesman on Treasury affairs, who proposed that the PLP should be given half of the vote.

Although Mr Foot does not take votes in the Shadow Cabinet, there was overwhelming support for the proposal, which will now be recommended to the parliamentary party.

The PLP will undoubtedly accept it, and with the trade unions moving away from the special conference decision, it is possible that it will be carried by the annual party conference in October.

Manchester gets Claude masterpiece

By Geraldine Norman
Sole Room Correspondent

The Manchester City Art Gallery has acquired one of the greatest paintings by Claude Lorrain (1630-1682), the French master of classical landscape painting. It has come through a private sale from the Morrison collection and is entitled "Landscape with the Adoration of the Golden Calf".

Until recently the Morrison collection was one of the most important private collections of Old Master paintings in Europe. The pictures are held by a family trust known as the Walker Morrison Picture Settlement.

There has, however, been a steady erosion in recent years. The Claude was acquired through the agency of Colnaghi's, the Bond Street dealers. Its market valuation was set at £625,000, but after various tax deductions the gallery was required to pay only £253,956.

Call to keep pay formula

By Our Labour Staff

The local authorities' decision to withdraw from the formula for 1979 pay agreement came under attack last night.

Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the decision to abandon the formula linking firemen's earnings with those of skilled manual workers was "regrettable".

He said the association, which unlike the employers' body is

Labour dominated, had always worked for the honouring of the agreement, "which was designed to end confrontation over the pay of those vital public servants".

He added that the agreement did not provide index linking "in the normal sense". It simply related firemen's pay to that of other "similar" workers. If the level of wages increased, fell, so too would those of firemen.

Civil servants expect 7.5%

Continued from page 1

already been rejected by the nine unions involved, who are in the final stages of planning a campaign of industrial action. Despite last night's cash limit announcement it was confidently expected in union circles that the Government would increase its offer to about 7 1/2 per cent.

Union negotiators have been called in to see Lord Soames, Lord President and minister responsible for the Civil Service, on Monday, but it was not clear last night how the Government would attempt to accommodate an increased offer within the cash limit.

Delegates representing the hospital ancillary workers are also to meet tomorrow and will also be seeking an increased offer which would bring them in line with the local authority manual workers who

settled for a 7.5 per cent increase.

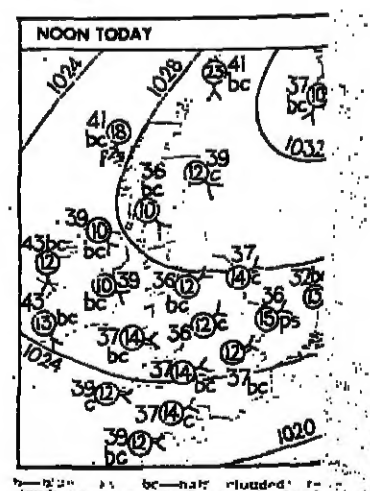
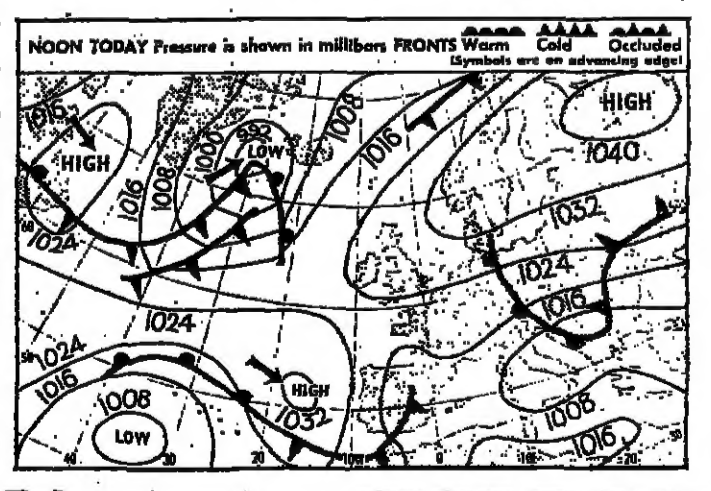
The extra 1.5 per cent is to be funded out of the rates, and as a similar recouping of the cost is not possible in the National Health Service, union leaders were pessimistic last night about the possibility of an improvement in the offer.

Mr Ronald Keating, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, most of whose members will be covered by the cash limit, said last night: "I regard the announcement as a prescription for conflict and demoralisation in the National Health Service."

A final decision on whether to proceed with industrial action is to be taken next Thursday. The campaign will begin with a one-day national strike, probably on March 5.

Leading article, page 15

Weather forecast and recordings



NUCLEAR ATTACK Protection for Industry

March 18th 1981 at 66, Portland Place, London.

An international seminar designed for industrial planners and businessmen wishing to learn about large scale protection of people and essential industries. The object is to help you assess what your organisation could do in the light of the possibility of nuclear war.

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- Modern weapon effects (heat, blast, radiation, chemical) * War scenarios; major attacks; limited attacks; accidents etc.
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- How one nuclear explosion high above the North Sea could take out communication power systems, computers, etc.
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Write or phone now for registration forms and programme:

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Former Broadmoor patient to appeal to Strasbourg

By Lucy Hodges

A former Broadmoor patient, who was later transferred to Park Lane special hospital, is to appeal to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg against a decision in the Court of Appeal yesterday that he cannot sue the authorities for allegedly keeping him in hospital unlawfully.

This is the second case to go to Europe challenging that section of the Mental Health Act, 1959, which prevents patients from suing the health service. Both cases are being taken by MIND, the mental health charity. The first one was reported in *The Times* on December 23 last.

The Court of Appeal, with Lord Justice Lawton presiding, yesterday dismissed an appeal brought by Mr Samuel Kynaston, of Florence Street, St Helens, Merseyside, against a decision that he could not sue the Home Secretary.

Section 141 of the Mental

New department for juvenile justice proposed

By a Staff Reporter

A new department of the Home Office to deal with young offenders is proposed in a booklet published today by an independent group of probation workers.

There is no hope of creating effective provision for juvenile offenders while responsibility is divided between local authorities, the prison department of the Home Office and the probation and aftercare services, it says.

A new juvenile justice department of the Home Office should be created to deal with both custodial and community-based provision, with the task of developing imaginative non-custodial measures for juvenile offenders.

Fair Play! A balanced approach to juvenile justice (Sheila Himmel, 1st floor, 26 The Broadway, London, SW19, 4L).

Law Report, page 4

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Law Report, page 4

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HOME NEWS

Main aim of Prime Minister to avert strike

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The desperate wish to avert a coal strike was the paramount consideration for Mrs Margaret Thatcher in agreeing, in sudden reversal of her stated policy, to consider giving extra money to the coal board.

That was frankly acknowledged last night in government quarters, where it was accepted that explaining the difference between prudent adjustment and a climbdown could pose severe difficulties.

Only eight days ago the Prime Minister had insisted that there would be no change and no intervention. At Commons question time she stated: "We have fixed the amount available for the industry. It is for the management of the National Coal Board to make the arrangements and we shall stand by those arrangements."

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, said last night on *TV's News at Ten*: "Total inflexibility does not fit in with real life." He was defending the change of plan.

After last night's meeting it is implicit that the £866m cash limit for next year will rise, although it was denied that it would be a big increase.

There were Opposition jeers last night at the Government climbdown. Mr John Grant, frontbench spokesman on employment, said that it was a remarkable U-turn.

Some miners sceptical of closures retreat

By Richard Ford

The mood was mixed among miners at pits and social clubs last night when they heard of the National Coal Board decision not to go ahead with the closures plan. Many of them feared that they would eventually be sold out.

So high is the mistrust of government and board motives that miners were saying that the plan had just been postponed for another year.

Some, however, were more jubilant. At a miner's colliery near Wakefield, which had been on the closure list, Mr Peter Watkins, NUM branch secretary, said that the men had grins from ear to ear.

"Many can hardly believe it. I think it is a bit of a reward for what we have done over the past few years. We have been producing more coal, we have lost men through pit closure and absenteeism has dropped tremendously."

He said he thought the men had shown the board they were united on the issue. "I think the Government and the board have had a bit of a shock at our mood, and great sums of Mrs Thatcher's backbenchers have obviously been worrying about what was developing."

At Hucknall, in Nottinghamshire, Mr "Nobby" White urged caution on miners. He feared the board might have something up its sleeve which it would reveal at a later date.

"I am not celebrating yet and I will want to wait and see what our national leaders say before I think it is a good deal."

"Clear victory", Mr Joseph Whelan, general secretary of

Nottinghamshire's 34,000 miners, said last night: "It is clear victory for the National Union of Mineworkers and a total defeat for the Government and the coal board. The lady said she was not for turning but now she has become an expert in doing double somersaults" (Our Nottingham Correspondent writes).

"I am not really surprised at the news", Mr Whelan said. "We would have had the support of other trade unions and we would have intensified the picketing. That would probably have brought us into conflict with the law."

"There would not have been enough room in the jails in the land for all the miners who would go there. The Government have saved themselves the embarrassment of this situation."

Kent fears: In Kent, where miners had walked out, there were expressions of scepticism about the result of the talks and the apparent speed with which the coal board and the Government altered course (a Staff Reporter writes).

Mr Henry Garling, branch official, said: "I want to look at the small print very carefully, as my worry is that we could be in the same position in 1982. We have been through all this now. We certainly do not want to go all through it in a year's time."

Strike goes on: Ongrave colliery, at Sheffield, one of the South Yorkshire pits scheduled for closure, decided last night to start strike action, as planned (Our Sheffield Correspondent reports).



Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Joseph Gornley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board (right), outside the Department of Energy after the board withdrew its pit closure plan.

South Wales jubilant at saving of 2,800 jobs

From Tim Jones

Cardiff Miners throughout the South Wales coalfield were jubilant last night as news of the National Coal Board's apparent retreat spread throughout the mining communities.

At Coegau colliery, whose miners spearheaded the attack against the closure programme by walking out on unofficial strike last Saturday, Mr Verdon Price, the lodge secretary, said: "Thank God that commonsense

has won the day. We did not want to bring the Government down but we were determined to fight for our jobs. Job security means more than anything."

Mr Terence Thomas, the miners' agent for west Wales, said: "My initial reaction is one of extreme pleasure. Commonsense has prevailed. If we have saved the 2,800 jobs threatened in the South Wales coalfield then I am delighted."

But miners were last night told to maintain their pickets

until told officially by the National Union of Mineworkers' executive to end their strike action.

At Britannia colliery, in Gwent, where 511 jobs were to go, Mr Thomas Bowden, the lodge secretary, said: "The strike will probably be called off. But I am worried that the closures will still take place, although more slowly."

"Mrs Thatcher's tactic now will be to try to buy us off, but we will not fall for it. It is all

very well to buy cheap foreign coal, but that is like relying on oil from the Arabs in the 1960s."

Scottish reaction: In Scotland, where it had been announced that three pits were to close, a miners' official at Carduan, near Glasgow, the largest of the three, said the men were delighted with the withdrawal of the closure plan, but would not be calling off their strike until the special delegates' conference in Edinburgh tomorrow.

Maude plea to Tories not to lose nerve

Sir Angus Maude, the former Paymaster General, yesterday urged the Government to stick to its unpopular policies and not to lose its nerve. He warned the Conservative Party to keep off the middle ground of politics.

Sir Angus's speech to a party meeting in Ruislip contrasted with recent statements by Mr Francis Pym, who took over his post as the Government's head of information, by Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, and by Mr Norman St John-Stevens, the former Leader of the House.

All three had insisted that the Conservatives were the real centre party, and said that the Government's economic strategy must be adjusted to take account of mounting unemployment.

Sir Angus said yesterday: "I hope the Conservative Party is not beginning to lose its nerve. If it is, then the prospects for Britain, and particularly for industry and jobs, are gloomy indeed."

The first sign of a loss of nerve was talk about the need to occupy "the middle ground". He said: "They are doing it now."

If the social democrats were allowed to become established, they would seek ground to the left of centre to occupy. "If Conservatives try to compete for that territory they will lose, not gain, votes", Sir Angus said.

Stockpiling has some weaknesses

Power stations face bigger threat from water strike

By Peter Hennessy

Big coal-burning power stations, the backbone of the national grid, could have withstood a siege of picketing miners for between eight and ten weeks had a national coal strike occurred.

The power supply industry is much more worried about the prospect of a national water strike. Should water supplies be cut off, power stations would be affected swiftly and output could be drastically reduced within two to three weeks.

To feed its boilers, a large coal-burning power station needs a very pure supply, far purer than drinking water. To achieve the necessary quality mains water is treated on site. Chlorine is one of the essential supplies stockpiled.

Since the national miners' strike of 1972, when the National Union of Mineworkers sent flying pickets to power stations up and down the country with great effect, strategic supplies have been stockpiled and kept on site to enable power stations to hold out for two months.

Slack demand this winter caused by the recession has meant that many of the 2,000 megawatt stations are operating only three of their four turbines and the period of self-sufficiency could be stretched to 10 weeks.

Other vital materials in the strategic reserve sustained as a part of routine contingency planning are fuel oil, needed for damping down and restarting furnaces, oxy-acetylene for maintenance staff, and hydrogen, required for cooling activators.

Hydrogen proved especially vulnerable to picketing miners in 1972. Since then it has been the policy of the Central Electricity Generating Board to install equipment for producing hydrogen on site.

The board could have made its coal supplies last even longer in a protracted miners' strike by making more intensive use of its oil-burning stations, many of which are working at half load because of reduced demand.

In the recent past coal reserves in the power stations have been below the eight-week level at this time of the year. But thanks to the recession and good deliveries from the coalfields, the electricity board has never been better placed to hold out against industrial action by workers outside the electricity supply industry, with the exception of the water workers.

The board's position is far stronger than in February, 1972. Contingency plans were radically revised after the miners' strike nine years ago.

Labour councils to set up new policy group

By Christopher Werman

Local Government Correspondent

Leading members of the Labour Party in local government are to launch an association of Labour councillors on March 2 with the object of giving councillors a greater say in party policy, and co-ordinating the efforts of Labour groups in opposition to government's policies.

At a meeting at Blackpool last weekend during the Labour party local government conference a group of senior councillors rejected any proposals to bind candidates for council elections by loyalty oaths.

They also stated that policy differences should be settled within the party and that "to leave the party one loses the argument as defeatist as well as divisive."

Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, one of the instigators of the new association, said yesterday that the response had been tremendous, and that more than 70 authorities had made firm commitments to join.

He added that it was not an organization of moderates. "It is a Labour Party organization. It is neither right nor left."

"We are going to stay in the party, but we are trying to demonstrate that we are not going to be puppets of the local Labour parties. We want to emphasise that we will act responsibly and fight for the party."

Mr Smart said the association was being formed because of lack of support to Labour councils and groups from the party's national executive committee, and the regional and local government sub-committee between September, 1979, and February 1981.

Radical changes proposed in hospital staffing

By a Staff Reporter

Proposals for radical changes in the hospital staffing structure were put by doctors yesterday to the Commons select Committee on Social Services.

The proposals, from the Joint Consultants Committee, would lead to quotas being set by the Department of Health on the number of registrars health authorities could appoint in over-subscribed specialties such as general medicine and surgery.

More consultants would be appointed in these fields, with fewer junior staff under them, with the intention of establishing more training posts for junior doctors in under-subscribed specialties such as pathology, radiology and some branches of psychiatry.

Competition for posts for training in surgery and other popular specialties was excessive and leading to an unacceptable level of wastage, the committee, which is investigating medical education, was told.

For some posts there were as many as 80 applicants.

It was also told that too many junior training posts had too great a service commitment to the National Health Service and provided little training.

Overseas doctors, who make up a large proportion of junior hospital staff, suffered particularly, filling posts with poor training facilities and having little likelihood of receiving further training.

The consultants committee proposed some form of control on the numbers of overseas doctors to ensure that they received proper training.

Such doctors should have to make arrangements to have a training post before coming to Britain

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Forces' strength still rising

The total strength of the Armed Forces continued to rise but shortages of suitable candidates in certain key categories are a cause for concern, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

In spite of a high level of applications there were shortages of Royal Navy full-career engineer officers and seamen and RAF officer entrants to navigator, engineer, administra-

tive (education), general ground duties and medical branches.

At the end of last December there were 333,915 men and women in the Services, 13,000 more than at March 31, 1980.

The Royal Navy's strength at the end of December was 65,798, which was 1,500 higher than at the end of March 1979: the Army's 167,311 (8,000 higher than in the previous December); the RAF's 92,977 (up 4,500).

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NSB Ordinary Account deposits should be made at the post office; please note that the new Save-by-Post service is for NSB Investment Accounts only.

HOME NEWS

Judge orders 16 foreign airlines to hand over £2m withheld in Heathrow landing fees dispute

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Sixteen foreign airlines were ordered yesterday to hand over to the British Airports Authority an estimated £2m in increased landing charges they have been withholding, Mr Justice Parker ruled in the High Court that it should be paid in 21 days.

Since November the airlines have been paying the increases into an interest-bearing account in protest at the 35 per cent rise at Heathrow airport, London, from April last year.

They are to challenge the increases in a High Court action due to begin next year.

The judge said yesterday that if the airlines continued to withhold the increases, travellers and other Heathrow users could eventually be affected. The increases would amount to about £14m by the time the High Court action was heard.

As a result the airports authority, if it was to pursue its Heathrow expansion, would have to exceed borrowing limits, and it could not do that without government consent.

The judge said that the effect of the airlines continuing to withhold the money would be complex and difficult to quantify. Even if the authority was granted increased borrowing limits, that might not be sufficient.

The airlines had been paying the withheld money into the bank account not out of generosity or any sense of fair play, but as security against having their aircraft detained by the authority under its Civil Aviation Act powers, he said.

"In the light of the apparent uselessness of sterilizing large sums of money, I invited the airlines to consider whether they would be prepared, pending trial, to pay direct to the authority as all other operators are doing. But they were not prepared to do so. They claimed they had landing and operating rights, whether they paid or not."

The airports authority, and the Secretary of State for Trade, who is also a party to the action as having overall control of the airport, denied there was "a right to hand".

Scots trawlermen urged to go back to sea

Scottish fishermen's leaders again tried to persuade trawlermen to go back to sea yesterday as government officials examined the industry's demands for £120m aid to avert bankruptcies.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has appealed to fishermen to end their protest over cheap fish imports, saying it might damage their case when it is discussed in Cabinet.

The Scottish fishermen were yesterday given a progress report on the meeting on Tuesday between their leaders and Mr Walker and Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary of State.

More than 800 boats are still tied up in Scottish ports and militant skippers have threatened to extend their blockade to North Sea oil supply ships if the Government does not take action soon.

Mr Walker has announced that he is making available £270,000 in Scottish fishermen, with a further £1.1m to come in the next few days, which will almost exhaust the Government's £37.5m fishing aid fund.

Bill on indecent displays aims beyond front men

By Our Parliamentary Staff

An amendment to the Indecent Displays (Control) Bill will widen the liability for prosecution to anybody "causing or permitting" such displays in public.

Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, and sponsor of the Bill, which is likely to become law, successfully moved the amendment yesterday in standing committee. It is aimed at ensuring that the people most responsible for indecent displays "cannot get away by leaving the rap to be taken by some front man".

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, supported the amendment and said it would make it abundantly clear that the purpose of the Bill was to catch not only the person immediately responsible for making an indecent display, such as a sex shop manager, but also the person who had employed the manager to make the display, such as a company director or shop owner.

But Dr Shirley Summerskill, Labour MP for Halifax and an opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that despite the amendment the Bill was still extremely vague and the police would be reluctant to prosecute because of its uncertainty.

She wanted to widen the liability for prosecution to include the freehold owner of premises where there was an indecent display in public. To do so would act as a deterrent.

Mr Mayhew said that Dr Summerskill's proposal went too far because in many cases landlords had no control over what happened in the premises they let.

Defendant admits murder

Another defendant in the handless corpse trial pleaded guilty at Lancaster Crown Court yesterday to the murder of Martin Johnstone, an international drugs dealer.

The change of plea came from Frederick Russell, aged 39, of Kentish Town, London, on the third day of the drugs and murder trial. Mr Russell has already admitted two drug conspiracy charges, which he faces with 11 other defendants.

display, such as a sex shop manager, but also the person who had employed the manager to make the display, such as a company director or shop owner.

But Dr Shirley Summerskill, Labour MP for Halifax and an opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that despite the amendment the Bill was still extremely vague and the police would be reluctant to prosecute because of its uncertainty.

She wanted to widen the liability for prosecution to include the freehold owner of premises where there was an indecent display in public. To do so would act as a deterrent.

Mr Mayhew said that Dr Summerskill's proposal went too far because in many cases landlords had no control over what happened in the premises they let.

In brief

Seven saved from helicopter in sea

Seven men escaped and were rescued yesterday after a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter crashed into the sea in Falmouth Bay off Cornwall, and turned turtle.

The helicopter, from Culdrose, was on a training flight when the pilot reported engine difficulties. A safety boat accompanying the helicopter and two Westcoast helicopters which were in the area picked up the crew. One man was slightly injured.

Boy murder charge

Heather Sokell, aged 21, a nursemaid, was remanded in custody by magistrates at Hampstead, London, yesterday charged with the murder of James Long, aged seven months, at his home in Darlington Park Road, Kentish Town, north London, on February 13.

Strychnine warning

An urgent warning was issued yesterday after strychnine was stolen from a chemist's shop in Maybury Road, Woking, Surrey. Police feared it could be used by magistrates at Hampstead, London, yesterday charged with the murder of James Long, aged seven months, at his home in Darlington Park Road, Kentish Town, north London, on February 13.

Director's suicide

A formal verdict of suicide was recorded at the inquest at Cheltenham yesterday on Mr Graham Moon, aged 36, the dismissed managing director of Severn Sound commercial radio station, who was found dead in his car last Monday.

Rugby tickets forged

Scotland Yard said yesterday that forged tickets for the England v France rugby match on March 21 had been found and there might be forgeries for next Saturday's match against Scotland at Twickenham. They are mainly £2 standing tickets.

Youths sought after fire

Two youths were being sought by police yesterday after fire destroyed a club at Clifton, Nottingham, where a teenage discotheque had been held. The damage was estimated at £30,000.

Foiling hoaxers

Equipment that can locate the source of radio messages has been installed by Solent coastguards at the Needles, Isle of Wight. It can check Mayday calls and so eliminate hoax messages.

Firemen overcome

Nineteen firemen needed hospital treatment yesterday after being overcome by fertilizer fumes at Metley Farm, West Ogwell, near Newton Abbot, Devon.

WEST EUROPE

Bonn panel examines financing of Tornado

Bonn, Feb 18.—A West German parliamentary panel launched an official investigation today into the handling by 1980 of the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft project.

The move came after press reports that the Defence Ministry expected a DM800m (£160m) shortfall next year in funds for the project, a joint development by West Germany, Britain and Italy.

Herr Apel, already admitted that ministry cost estimates for the Tornado project in 1980 and 1981 were a total of DM1,300m too low. Reports of a further budgeting error have revived speculation about his chances of political survival.

The Bundestag defence committee held only a brief meeting today to adopt formally the role of a commission of inquiry. The first working session is due on March 18.

Herr Werner Marx, an opposition Christian Democrat, who is chairman of the defence committee, will head the inquiry.

West Germany plans to put 322 of the swing-wing aircraft into operation by 1988, at a projected cost of DM22,000m. Britain has ordered 385 Tornados, and Italy 100.—Reuter.

Britain expects end to restrictions on Gibraltar 'soon'

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain hopes for an end to Spanish restrictions against Gibraltar "very soon", it was confirmed yesterday. But what MPs wanted to know, when the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs discussed the matter, was when the Spanish Government was going to act.

"Why has nothing been done when we thought it would be done?" Mr Anthony Kershaw, chairman of the committee, put it.

Yesterday the questions were taken by a high-powered team of Foreign Office officials, as distinct from ministers, and the answers given were so diplomatic and so carefully wrapped that it would be hard to predict when things would return to normal for Gibraltar.

"In the first instance it must be for the Spanish Government to explain the reasons for the delay in implementation of the Lisbon agreement," the MPs were told.

Under this agreement, Spain was to open the frontier and negotiations would then start on the problems concerning Gibraltar. Britain was ready to carry out its side of the bargain last June. But the Spanish Government—though it stands by the agreement—has not been ready to do its part yet.

The officials spoke of administrative problems, perhaps more complex than the Spanish had expected. Equally, there had been governmental changes in Madrid. "Other-wise", the officials noted, "we would prefer not to assess the reasons, which are for the Spanish Government to assess."

Mr Peter Mills, Conservative MP for Devon West, took the Foreign Office to task for referring to "the Gibraltar problem". "It is not. It is a Spanish problem," he declared. "The people of Gibraltar have not caused any difficulties."

"The point was taken gracefully. If using a form of shorthand gave the impression it is 50-50, then we would not wish to give that impression."

What it came down to, it appeared, was that Britain was seeking "an act of faith" by the Spanish Government in carrying out the Lisbon agreement. "It seems reasonable to ask them to make it, as they imposed the restrictions," the Foreign Office believes.

So far as Spain's application to join the European Community was concerned, the idea that two countries in the Community could have a closed border was described as "unthinkable". Gibraltar is in the EEC already. There is no problem, therefore, about its status.

Exports cut threatens Yugoslavia's EEC link

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 18

Relations between the EEC and Yugoslavia, supposedly on a new footing since the signing of a preferential trade agreement last year, have been soured by French and Irish insistence on a severe cut in Yugoslav exports to Greece.

At a meeting of foreign ministers of the Ten in Brussels yesterday, France and Ireland argued that as a member of the EEC, Greece must observe the rules of "Community preference".

Under last February's trade agreement, Yugoslavia was given the right to export 34,800 tonnes of "baby beef"—a specialized product between real and mature beef—a year to the old EEC of Nine at a preferential tariff.

Before joining the EEC at the beginning of this year, Greece had been importing about 40,000 tonnes of beef a year from Yugoslavia. The European Commission had proposed that this trade should continue at a level of 30,000 tonnes, bringing total Yugoslav beef exports to the enlarged Community to just under 65,000 tonnes.

With the exception of France and Ireland, member states were prepared to accept this proposal. But the French wanted Yugoslav exports to Greece to be limited to a maximum of 3,000 tonnes, while the Irish would not go higher than 7,000 tonnes.

Other member states are amazed that the French and the Irish should want to risk damaging the EEC's politically sensitive relations with Yugoslavia for the sake of a few thousand tonnes of beef.

Italy faces declining population

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Feb 18

Myths as a rule die hard in Italy, but not the idea of the happy family pulsating with plenty of babies, judging from the applause a group of economists and ecologists here tonight gave to the news that for the first time for centuries in an era of peace the Italian population has ceased to grow and may actually be falling.

A sharp drop in the birth rate of course is now common in European countries. Both the French and Germans are worried about it. The point which emerged in tonight's discussions at the Institute for Demographic Research was that a sharp fall was the hope for a solution of Italy's economic and social crisis and that of Europe as a whole.

The discussion group comprises Signor Francesco Forte, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, Indro Montanelli, Communist Signor Fulco Pratesi, chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, Signor Domenico de Masi, who teaches sociology at Rome University, and Signor

Luigi de Marchi, chairman of the Institute for Demographic Research.

Signor de Marchi pointed out that for 30 years the controversy between supporters and opponents of birth control had been concentrated on its necessity or otherwise for countries of the Third World.

In recent years the idea had been gaining ground that the industrialized world would need a drastic reduction in population in order to face the crisis threatening to involve the whole of Europe.

Density of population was a grave problem, so much so that the Italian population in terms of consumption and pollution caused as much ecological damage as would 2,000 million to 3,000 million Indians or Chinese, packed into the peninsula.

Until recently, he said, Italian and European prosperity had been based on the processing of cheap raw materials using low priced energy.

This situation could now no longer continue, and Europe would be in a state of crisis

until the population had been reduced to levels compatible with each country's own resources. The difference between population and resources was at its most striking in Italy.

Signor Forte said that a drastic reduction of the future labour force would not only mean that older people could be allowed to continue to make their contribution, with a reduction in pension payments, but also young persons and women could be involved in production instead of being excluded with grave dangers to social peace and human dignity.

The speakers tonight did not include spokesmen of the Roman Catholic view of life in Italy. They would no doubt have seen the issues in a different light.

Nevertheless there was enough reasoned discussion to make one wonder what has happened to the cult of the bambino and how many hundreds of thousands of emigrants must be turning over in their graves to express agreement with the need to cut population according to the cloth of immediate resources.

Elysée meeting disrupted by false alarm

Paris, Feb 18.—Workmen disturbed a Cabinet meeting at the Elysée Palace today when they accidentally cut an alarm wire which caused a maximum alert at the palace.

As bells began ringing, guards shut the palace gates, and others, armed with automatic weapons, took up positions on the steps leading up to the building from the central courtyard.

The alert was, however, cancelled within minutes when workmen admitted unintentionally setting off the alarm.—Agence France-Press.

ADVERTISEMENT

WILL YOUR M.P. LET YOU SHOP ON SUNDAYS AND LATE AT NIGHT?

This Friday 20th February your MP will have the opportunity to support the Private Member's Bill presented by Sir Anthony Meyer to amend and extend the law regulating shop opening hours.

At present it is against the law to sell most types of goods after eight at night and on Sundays. In the current Dickie Dirts' Opinion Poll so far over 30,000 people (approximately 94% of the vote taken) are in favour of a change in the law relating to late night and Sunday shopping. In

fact 49% of Dickie Dirts' trade takes place during currently illegal shopping hours.

Provided employees' interests are adequately safeguarded—as outlined in the proposed Bill—a change in the law would give workers the freedom to work hours which they prefer. Dickie Dirts' staff work 37½ hours a week on a rotating shift and are paid £6,740 a year basic salary. The 14 hours a day, seven days a week opening requires twice the number of staff that ordinary shop hours would neces-

sitate, thus providing more employment. Dickie Dirts' value for money policy maintains reduced prices and doubles employment, which makes a nonsense of the uncompetitive statement that longer shopping hours are inflationary. The majority of shops appear to forget that they are in business to provide a service for the customer.

The laws pertaining to shopping hours are out of pace with modern Britain. Today we are a nation of many races and creeds and

most people do not have the time available to do all their shopping conveniently during conventional shopping hours. Dickie Dirts believes the law should be updated to suit Britain's needs.

Dickie Dirts OPINION POLL

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OVERSEAS

Christian martyrs beatified by the Pope before he pays visit to worst slums in Manila

From Peter Hazelhurst
Manila, Feb 18

Three million Filipinos watched the Pope beatify 16 Christian martyrs in the centre of Manila today, raising their stature of holiness to one step before sainthood. It was the first ceremony of its kind to be held by the Catholic Church outside Europe since the thirteenth century.

Reinforcing the Vatican's interest in Asia, the Pope announced tonight that as a native of Poland he would like to visit Peking to meet the Chinese Catholic hierarchy.

Making his plea he said to Chinese officials in Manila: "Ever since God's providence a mysterious ways called me from my native Poland to the see of St Peter in Rome, I have ardently desired to express my affection and esteem to all brothers and sisters of the church in China."

He went on, apparently to end a measure of support to the regime in Peking, by declaring that a "good Chinese Catholic works loyally for the progress of the nation, observes his obligations of filial piety towards his parents, family and country. There is therefore no opposition or incompatibility in being at the same time truly Christian and authentically Chinese."

Describing China as a great country in terms of culture, history, its geographic extension and population, the Pope then turned to the Scriptures: "I am longing to see you to strengthen you."

At the beatification ceremony this afternoon, hundreds of white doves were set flying and the bells of Manila cathedral and churches across the city began to peal as the Pope, in one of Asia's most historic and spiritual ceremonies, unveiled a cenotaph bearing the inscription "For God I shall give my life" to commemorate the martyrdom of 16 priests and laymen who were tortured to death by the Japanese in the seventeenth century.

Lorenzo Ruiz, one of the leading Christian martyrs in Asia, a Filipino layman who left the Philippines to escape criminal charges at home, was eventually executed in Nagasaki in 1637 for attempting to spread the Catholic faith in Japan.

Conducting the services in English, Spanish and Latin before the vast crowd in Luneta



The Pope, with crosier, at the beatification ceremony.

park in the centre of Manila, the Pope announced to the Asian church: "In this first beatification ceremony to take place outside of Rome and in this first Philippine Beatification, Lorenzo Ruiz, you have cause for continued rejoicing."

Attended by 300 cardinals and bishops from the Philippines and other parts of Asia, including Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and India, the moving ceremony was described by leading Catholics tonight as "one of the most significant events in the history of the Christian faith in Asia."

The Pope announced that the 16 martyrs declared as "blessed" today, include nine Japanese Christians, four Spaniards, one Frenchman, an Italian, and Lorenzo Ruiz.

According to the church's record, Lorenzo Ruiz and four companions were executed "painfully and slowly" in September, 1637, after they refused to renounce their faith.

Hung by his feet from the gallows his body and head were lowered into a narrow pit. The entrance of the pit was closed with pieces of wood and stones to increase the pressure. Lorenzo was left hanging upside down to bleed and suffocate until he died three days later.

They are given the title blessed because this was the greatest act of love for God, the Pope said.

Earlier, he inspected the edge of Manila's worst slum in the district of Tondo. The sprawling slum of shanty houses lacks running water, sewerage or proper medical facilities. The smell was almost unbearable.

Playing at police and soldiers in limboland

From Robert Fisk
Kunaira, Syria, Feb 18

Kunaira must be one of the most lawless towns in the world. There are two policemen for every shepherd and down at the local gendarmerie, Kalashnikovs rattle from the wall which is strange because the total civilian population is only 18.

A Syrian army second lieutenant, an English literature graduate from the University of Aleppo summed it all up rather well today as he stood on the Syrian ceasefire line—a rain-swept bank of dark mud—only 50 yards from where the Israeli flag cracked in the rainy afternoon.

"There are many shepherds around" he said. "We are very worried that they might walk through the minefields. So every shepherd has two policemen to look after him." The young soldier allowed himself a slight smile.

Just up the narrow, puddled road, and beyond the white painted United Nations huts an Israeli soldier stepped from behind a metal barricade to inspect the credentials of a driver. The Syrian lieutenant watched him without interest.

"We don't talk to the Israelis," he said. "Why should we? Sometimes our forward observation posts we can hear them talking and they shout 'Syria is very bad' and they say obscene things about us. We shout the same things back to them."

Thus the Middle East's most ferocious enemies confront each other beneath the Golan Heights amid the ruins of a war that ended more than seven years ago. Every building in Kunaira—once a town of 50,000 people—was systematically destroyed by Israeli tanks before the 1973 war.

Withdrawn after the 1973 war, Syrian soldiers now occupy this desolate salient, evading the United Nations' ceasefire troop restrictions by pretending in a drill sort of way, to be police.

Klaski clad majors with automatic rifles ride estate wagons through the ghostly streets and plod mournfully through the rain down to the little shacks where Kunaira's would-be constabulary keeps the peace.

It is a flat, flattened concrete bricks and mud street after street of pancaked houses and rubble walls, fire scorched mosques and a devastated Christian church.

Perhaps it is incumbent on every nation to keep a ruin or two as a reminder of the past. The Egyptians' last Port Said, the Israelis maintain the wreckage of a ruined village from the 1948 war. Syria has Kunaira.

It is almost surrounded by Israeli occupied territory and high above it on the hill of Abu Nedar, the Israeli can monitor the Syrian army's slightest movement. Two swaths of barbed wire separate the two armies and between them sit 14 bored Australian soldiers of the United Nations disengagement observer force.

Ceasefire violations—real or imagined—are regularly reported to the United Nations by both sides. The Syrians are currently claiming that Israeli patrols outside Kunaira "are firing on a Syrian military post."

From behind Tell Abu Nedar came the thunder of heavy artillery.

The Israelis were practicing firing on the far side of the hill but the wooden and tin walls of the lieutenant's make-believe gendarmerie rattled with the blast.

You could hear the shells hissing down range and the two long explosions that followed reverberated through the shack. While the Syrians were playing possum on one side of Tell Abu Nedar the Israelis were clearly playing soldiers on the other.

The West Bank-3: Palestinians fear they will be expelled by Israelis

From Christopher Walker
Eilat Moreh, Feb 18

Mrs Linda Hazony is an articulate American Jew who was born and brought up in Brooklyn. Today, with her husband and five children, she lives here in a cramped, mobile home perched on an exposed hill top overlooking Nablus, the largest and most militarily Palestinian town in the occupied West Bank.

Like thousands of other Jewish settlers in similarly inhospitable, incongruous locations, Mrs Hazony has no doubts about the justification for her presence in former Arab territory. "This is Eretz Israel, a land promised to the Jews by Abraham," she explained. "We are not foreigners here."

Eilat Moreh symbolizes the new type of settlement which has been assiduously fostered, financed and constructed by the ruling Likud coalition, especially by Mr Ariel Sharon, its energetic and expansionist Agriculture Minister. Already forcibly moved from a site near Nablus, the town is now situated less than three miles from a town with an Arab population of 60,000 and is guarded round the clock from possible Palestinian attack.

Although the Eilat Moreh settlers live in an unprepossessing assortment of pre-fabs, squads of labourers (including local Arabs) are now hard at work completing the first 36 concrete houses. The aim is to have them built by the date of the general election in the summer in order to make it difficult for any incoming Labour government to dismantle the settlement.

Some of the extreme Jewish nationalist group, Gush Emunim, the residents of Eilat Moreh are heavily armed and motivated by a passionate conviction that they have a greater right to sovereignty than the native Arabs. Although dismissed as dangerous fanatics by moderate Israelis, they are seen by many others (including some Government ministers) as the natural successors to the Jewish pioneers who first paved the way for the creation of the state.

Better known as a mysticism favoured by the new settlers, there is a hard-headed awareness of the crucial historical role played by settlements both in forcing the United Nations to partition Palestine and in delineating the original demographic lines between the Jewish and Arab populations. Many observers are convinced that underlying the settlement programme is a long-term aim to annex the West Bank permanently.

In conversation with outsiders, the new settlers appear totally unconcerned about the dangerous tensions which their presence has aroused among the Arab population. Many local Palestinian leaders are now convinced that the ultimate Israeli goal is to drive them out of the West Bank completely. Only a minority of the settlers advocate this policy openly, but most would agree with Mrs Rachel Klein,

Blacks living in white areas face prosecution

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Feb 18

Four special courts are to be set up in Johannesburg next month to handle prosecutions of Indians, Coloureds and blacks who have been living illegally in white areas. A magistrate has been recalled to retirement to help handle the 500 cases over a four-month period.

The prosecutions will be brought under the Group Areas Act, the apartheid statute that divides white people of different colours may live and work in different areas.

Several white people are also charged with allowing "squatted persons" to occupy premises under their control. The Johannesburg Star reported today that any blacks, particularly off Indians and Coloureds, have been moving from white areas of the city because of the shortage of good-class accommodation in their own racially-designated suburbs.

Many of them are prepared to pay double rent to secure a home and there has been no shortage of takers among white owners for the extra money. Prosecutions under the Group Areas Act—considered by many to be one of the most inhumane laws in the world—have been back pending the outcome of a test case before the late division of the Supreme Court.

Secret role of envoy to Britons

Continued from page 1

Bishop Hassan Dehghanizadeh, the mission chief, escaped an assassination attempt. His son was later murdered in Tehran and Miss Waddell, the bishop's secretary, was wounded in a gun attack.

On the surface a picture has been painted of a vendetta by Islamic fanatics angry at the conversion of Muslim Iranians to Christianity by the church, but informed sources said that underneath the surface lay "friction and strange rivalries" between British staff and Iranian workers in the mission, which could well be related to the confession that was announced today.

What was also not explained today, in the light of the Ayatollah's optimism over the imminent release of the Britons, was why Mr Terry Waite, a special representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, had been asked to extend his stay in Iran beyond Friday.

Mr Waite, who arrived in Iran secretly earlier this month and has since visited the three Anglicans in prison, has refused to comment on his role, leaving everyone guessing as to his exact role. It is known, however, that he has had a series of meetings with Iranian officials.

Sources close to Swedish and British diplomats involved with the issue continue to insist that Mr Waite is operating entirely separately of their efforts.

The sources added that Ayatollah Khomeini's statement had not been officially conveyed to the Swedish Embassy in Tehran which handles British affairs in Iran. Despite the renewed optimism following today's press conference, the British concern is still very cautious on the issue of the Britons' release.

Kaunda officials ousted in party reshuffle

Lusaka, Feb 18.—President Kaunda of Zambia today replaced the "dumber" two and three men in the state hierarchy in his second shake-up of the ruling party and government in just over two months.

He told a news conference that the changes were intended to streamline the Government and the United National Independence Party (U.N.I.P.), the country's only political party.

The post of Unip secretary-general, in effect, deputy head of state, went to Mr Humphrey Mulemba, chairman of the central committee's important appointments and disciplinary subcommittee.

He replaces Mr Mainza Chona, aged 51, a former vice-president before the title was abolished, and a former Prime Minister as well as a long-time political ally of Dr Kaunda.

Mr Chona, who was party secretary-general for four years, will become Ambassador to the United States.

The new Prime Minister, who ranks as number three in the state hierarchy, is Mr Nalumbo Munda, chairman of the Unip central committee's youth and sports subcommittee. He is a former minister with experience in labour relations, commerce, industry and local government.

Hijack plot man freed by Moscow

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Feb 18

Josef Mendelovich, aged 34, the last of the nine Jews jailed in 1970 for plotting to escape from the Soviet Union in a hijacked aircraft, arrived in Israel this evening.

He was taken from prison to Moscow airport and flown to Vienna this morning, six days after newspapers carried reports of his disappearance.

Nothing had been heard about Mr Mendelovich since October when he was on a hunger strike and the warden of the camp in the Urals where he was detained was reported to have told a Moscow Jewish couple on Thursday that he was no longer in the camp and he knew nothing of his whereabouts.

Israelis had feared the worst and on Sunday the Government decided to mobilize foreign governments and international organizations on his behalf.

His release was announced in Parliament today by Mr Moshe Nissim, the Minister of Justice, who interrupted the proceedings for an important announcement.

War hero disbands his party

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 18

The period of attempted reform in Israeli politics came to a close today when Professor Yigael Yadin, the Deputy Prime Minister, formally proposed the disbanding of his small and demoralized Democratic Movement to a meeting of the party's executive.

The demise of the party marks the final collapse in the expectations aroused during the 1977 general election when Professor Yadin's original Democratic Movement for Change captured the imagination of thousands of voters disillusioned with Israel's traditional parties. It captured 15 of the Knesset's 120 seats.

After joining Mr Menachem Begin's rightwing coalition in October 1977, the group was weakened by a series of bitter internal squabbles and the three Democratic Movement deputies are now all that remain of the four-year-old grouping.

Professor Yadin, a hero of the war of independence and the Israeli army's second chief of staff, left a successful academic career as an internationally-recognized archaeologist to enter politics shortly before the 1977 elections.

Among other radical policies his party was dedicated to fight for reform of the Israeli electoral system and introduce constituency representation.

The appeal of the idealistic movement to leftwing voters was seen as an important factor in causing the Israeli Labour Party to suffer its first electoral defeat. The final collapse of the Democratic Movement today was recognition that almost all its original support had gone.

Many of Professor Yadin's early backers have been bitterly disillusioned by his refusal to withdraw from the ruling coalition in protest against its hawkish policies.

Meteor blamed for flash attributed to nuclear blast

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 18

American intelligence experts have concluded that a flash of light spotted over the southern Atlantic last December was a natural phenomenon and not the explosion of a nuclear device.

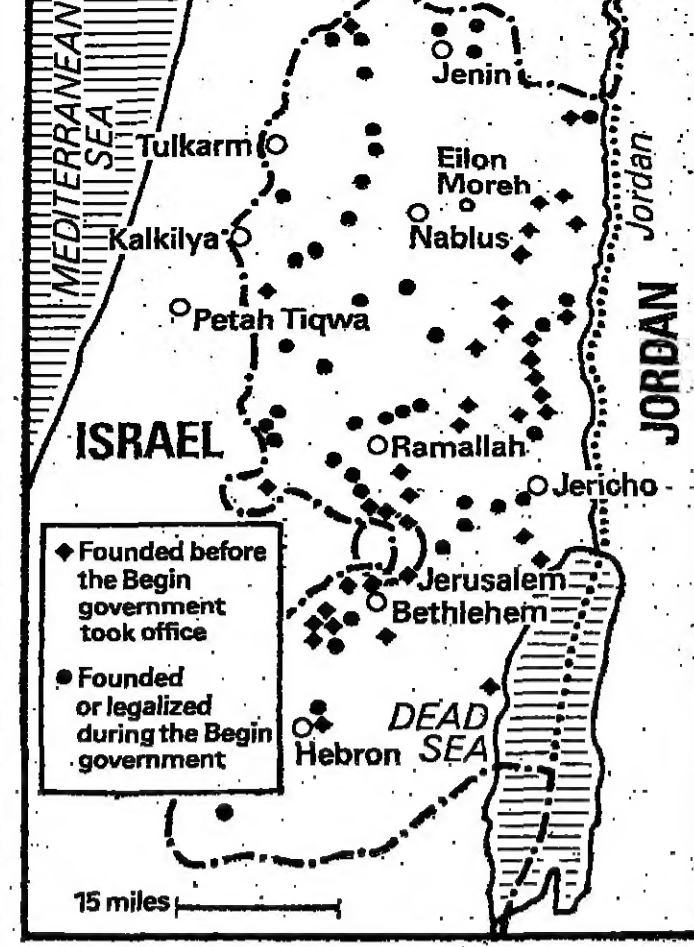
A State Department spokesman said that one possible explanation for the incident was a meteor entering the Earth's atmosphere in the area. Whatever its cause, Government experts had determined "from all available data that the event was natural, not man-made," he added.

The spokesman was responding to a report today in the Johannesburg Star claiming that the flash was caused by a nuclear explosion, probably set off by the South African Government.

The newspaper cited United States officials as suspecting "strongly" that South Africa was engaged in a full-scale nuclear testing programme.

The report was taken more seriously here than it might otherwise have been because a similar flash of light over the south Atlantic in September, 1978, was also believed by some experts here as having been caused by a nuclear explosion. Baseless allegations: A Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman said in Pretoria that the claim was evidently a repetition of the baseless allegations made in September, 1979, and there was no further comment to make (Ray Kennedy writes from Johannesburg).

Last year South Africa flatly denied it had carried out a nuclear weapon test.



power in 1977, the number of Jewish settlements (including Jewish suburbs built in East Jerusalem) totalled 37, with most concentrated around strategic sections of the Jordan Valley. In the past three and a half years, the number has jumped to 75 and plans are well advanced for another ten to be established before polling day.

Altogether about 18,000 Jews live in the occupied area, less than three per cent of the Arab population. In addition to houses and schools, they have also received the expensive beginnings of an industrial infrastructure intended to guarantee the viability of a permanent Jewish presence. Official statistics show that since 1977, over 72,000 square feet of industrial plant and other commercial buildings have been erected in the West Bank, with another 16,000 square feet under construction.

The question beginning to dominate Israeli politics is the extent to which this vast network of what the settlers pointedly refer to as "created facts" could be neutralized or a future Labour government pledged to negotiate territorial compromise with neighbouring Jordan.

In a recent series of private policy-making forums held by the Labour leadership, there were a number of references to the possibility of what one participant described as "civil war" breaking out if the Army was instructed to pull down settlements like Eilat Moreh, which are not seen as performing any useful security role.

Mr Sharon has deliberately gone on record predicting that no 'Israeli government' could survive in office if it attempted to do away with the settlements. A new pressure group formed by representatives of 40 settlements, which met for the first time on Christmas Eve, gave clear warning of its determination to resist.

A resolution passed by an overwhelming majority stated: "The Council considers any proposal intended to hand over parts of Eretz Israel to foreign sovereignty as a disavowal of the Jewish people's destiny and the aims of the Zionist enterprise, and as an illegal act."

The first two parts of this five-part series appeared yesterday and on Tuesday.

Blacks living in white areas face prosecution

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Feb 18

Four special courts are to be set up in Johannesburg next month to handle prosecutions of Indians, Coloureds and blacks who have been living illegally in white areas. A magistrate has been recalled to retirement to help handle the 500 cases over a four-month period.

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Reagan says he would 'punish' Tehran

David Cross
Washington, Feb 18

President Reagan's Administration announced formally today that it would honour the means concluded by President Carter for the release of the 52 American hostages from Iran.

At the time it made it clear that it agreed strongly with Mr Carter's decision to negotiate the release.

Spokesman for the State Department, who outlined the Administration's attitude towards Iran, indicated that Mr Reagan had been in when the American Embassy in Tehran was seized in November, 1979, he would have promptly to punish Iran.

He has decided to approve in strict accordance with the "policy" of the Administration, the present intervention would not have been with Iran for the "of the hostages", he said.

"Future acts of state terrorism against the United States will meet swift and sure punishment."

The spokesman explained why, in spite of its doubts, the new Administration had terms of the agreement negotiated with Iran, as the previous Administration.

This was the surest way to resolve the whole affair "consistent with the best interests of the United States" in the Gulf and the rest of the world, he said.

In reaching a decision during nearly four weeks of close scrutiny of the so-called Declarations of Algeria, the new Administration had looked at a number of important factors, the spokesman said.

They included the rights of American claimants against the Iranian authorities; United States anti-terrorism policy; United States obligations to third parties, including Algeria, which had assisted Washington in the negotiations; and long-term United States interests in the Gulf area, including Iran.

Zimbabwe seeks £780m aid to revive economy

Nicholas Ashford
Harare, Feb 18

Zimbabwe Government announced today that it had secured a £780m loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help revive the economy.

The loan, which is the largest in the history of the country, will be used to finance a major reconstruction and development programme.

However, one western diplomat today voiced doubts that the conference would be able to raise the sum envisaged: "This is a bad time for any country to be seeking such a huge amount of investment."

The post of Unip secretary-general, in effect, deputy head of state, went to Mr Humphrey Mulemba, chairman of the central committee's important appointments and disciplinary subcommittee.

He replaces Mr Mainza Chona, aged 51, a former vice-president before the title was abolished, and a former Prime Minister as well as a long-time political ally of Dr Kaunda.

Mr Chona, who was party secretary-general for four years, will become Ambassador to the United States.

The new Prime Minister, who ranks as number three in the state hierarchy, is Mr Nalumbo Munda, chairman of the Unip central committee's youth and sports subcommittee. He is a former minister with experience in labour relations, commerce, industry and local government.

The spokesman was responding to a report today in the Johannesburg Star claiming that the flash was caused by a nuclear explosion, probably set off by the South African Government.

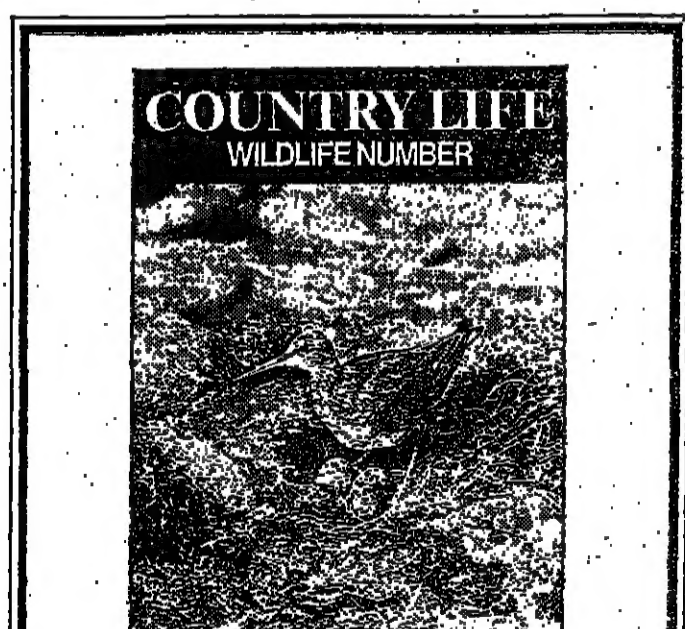
The newspaper cited United States officials as suspecting "strongly" that South Africa was engaged in a full-scale nuclear testing programme.

The report was taken more seriously here than it might otherwise have been because a similar flash of light over the south Atlantic in September, 1978, was also believed by some experts here as having been caused by a nuclear explosion. Baseless allegations: A Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman said in Pretoria that the claim was evidently a repetition of the baseless allegations made in September, 1979, and there was no further comment to make (Ray Kennedy writes from Johannesburg).

Last year South Africa flatly denied it had carried out a nuclear weapon test.

The British Home and Hospital for incurables specialises in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralytic diseases. They need very special care and attention. Some are bedridden, some are unsteady on their feet, some are unwell, some are with cancer, some are with other ailments, but all are treated with compassion, courtesy and patience. The BHHH receives no State aid.

Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3SB. PATRON: HM QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MOTHER.



Wildlife Number

WHERE THE LION ROARS

David Tomlinson writes about the mammals of northern Botswana, where elephants can still be seen in large herds and the roaring of lions is heard nightly.

SEARCH FOR THE ELUSIVE GREENSHANK
Dennis Green describes a successful Hebridean search for nests of the greenshank, perhaps the most elusive of wading birds.

BRITAIN'S ENDANGERED BOGS
David Goode looks at the wildlife of this country's mosses—the quaking bog—and argues for the preservation of these valuable habitats.

RETURN OF THE PINE MARTEN
John Davies discusses the re-introduction of pine martens—a member of the weasel family once near extinction in Britain—into the forests of Galloway.

BUTTERFLIES BEFORE THE LENS
Tom Jenkyn offers some tips for the successful photographing of butterflies in the wild.

COUNTRY LIFE

On sale now

INCURABLE?—Yes.



UNHAPPY?—No.

The British Home and Hospital for incurables specialises in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralytic diseases. They need very special care and attention. Some are bedridden, some are unsteady on their feet, some are unwell, some are with cancer, some are with other ailments, but all are treated with compassion, courtesy and patience. The BHHH receives no State aid.

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The Bill had to be introduced in anticipation of new redundancies. He wanted to know how many redundancies the new borrowing limit was expected to create. The Government was expected to last and when the Government expected to come to a decision on the legislation to raise the borrowing limit again.

Did the Bill take into account the fact that the British Steel Corporation or the Secretary of State for Industry (Mr. Gowers) was planning to close down any planning in the coal-mining industry.

The Government should give projections and calculations about the redundancies and employment levels which existed in his department but which he had concealed from the public. He wanted to know if the Government calculations about the cost of unemployment to the public sector borrowing requirement?

On public expenditure cuts, the Government seemed unable to make any logical decisions. He knew their frequent claims that they were reducing manpower in the public sector and reducing unemployment and redundancy.

It was a crazy economy when people doing useful jobs like bus conductors, school dinner ladies were thrown out of their jobs in the rate support grant and

Game, set and match to miners

ports of British industry for which the Prime Minister was an enthusiastic supporter.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment (Lowestoft, C) said payments from the Redundancy Fund were inadequate to be made on the same basis as they had before. There was no indication that the Government would make additional payments.

The Bill was designed to deal with a deficit. It was expected the deficit would be temporary and that after a time it should right itself.

There were no proposals for changing the existing basis of taxation of redundancy payments.

Simple reduction of rates was an option open to them, would not have the effect of reducing unemployment, except by a comparatively small margin. That was why they had to get down the case of inflation. The problem was the level of labour unit costs. Britain's economy a less competitive nation.

It was their objective over a period to convert the youth opportunities programme into a training scheme. There was no doubt they did not get any form of training after leaving school.

They were aware of the shortcomings of the redundancy payments system. There might perhaps be an opportunity for a further review of the whole system. It might be necessary for more radical solutions to be considered.

The Bill was read a second time and passed its remaining stages.

BSC policy is to match competitive prices

cial year would be \$1,200m. He estimated that the tonnage was about eight millions. The best estimate for the loss per tonne of steel produced by BSC was about £150.

BSC was quoting prices far below what the most efficient private producers could manage. The corporation was selling at a loss. There was unfair competition. If it were not for the taxpayer's cash BSC would be in the hands of the law.

The acquisition of downstream activities by BSC should be prohibited, BSC's first and only responsibility was to produce steel at a minimum cost.

There was to be a further measure brought before the House soon. He would not feel able to support any proposal unless they were in line with the Government's plan and discuss it. There should be no more cash until MPs knew what was going to be done.

If the House was to be called upon to vote for such substantial sums he would not be able to vote in favour of them unless he was directly involved. He was not to be in the future a continuing partnership between the private and public sector.

Mr Frank Beoley (Sheffield, Conservative) said the Government's policies were placing an intolerably and impossible burden upon the steel industry both in the private and public sectors.

The Bill was read a second time,

Airlines showing spirit of innovation in grim market

commercial rates of interest. The £28m was not a subsidy from Government funds. It was made from low rates only if an airline's costs were contained within the commensurate and future successful airlines would be those which maximized efficiency in the use of capital assets and labour.

In bilateral negotiations with the European Community, the Government would continue to argue vigorously for the introduction of a system of subsidizing airlines wished to charge and which the Government believed were reasonable.

It was wrong that the market should be restricted in a way that led to the kind of abuse and illegality the House had discussed so recently in connection with bucket shops. This was a matter which he urged his department intended to pursue to the bitterest extremity.

To change the law the Government had to persuade its interested parties to accept a compromise. It was difficult, but was likely in the end to be the course along which they should proceed.

The Chancellor concluded.

The Trees (Replanting and Re-plantment) Bill completed its committee stage.

House adjourned, 8.45 pm.

Architecture

Pyrrhic victory for preservationist



Royal Bank of Scotland in

stone lift shaft, is the most exciting: the rubber enclosed feeling in the depth of the building is opened out by the stairwell; the colours and detailing are crisp, and there are marvellous views of Edinburgh as one mounts the staircase. So fine, indeed, is this circulation area that it contrasts strangely with the remainder of the building, which is good, but not special. Indeed, it seems to lack some of the touches of fashion and excitement after which banks are striving these days.

In sum, this is not a building that shows a lack of care. It may demonstrate the wrong type of care, and it could be that given the preservation of the facade, the architects should have made greater efforts to integrate it into the new building behind. What is true, however, is that this development is an exemplar of many of the present difficulties facing architecture, and is worth a visit to see one method of solution.

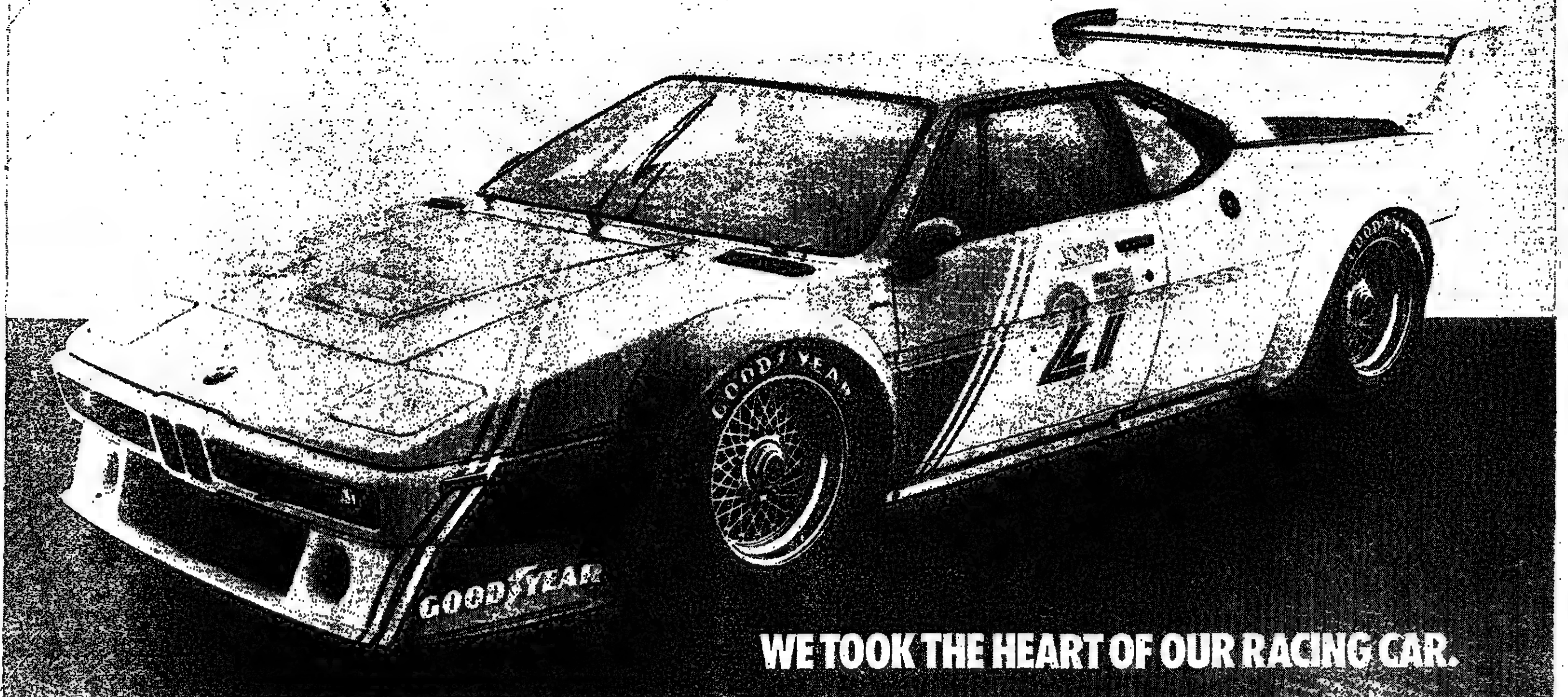
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ood	Fair	Good	Fine	

representatives of the Ski Club
slopes and U to upper slopes. 1
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Wendee	---	no	Good
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Even Boycott cannot stave off defeat

Novices | 9-B-12. Barrow Chief 12-B-10. Klu-
Lucifer. | via 12-B-10. Dejea 10-B-9. To be
Handicap | run over four miles. four furlongs at
un. | Liverpool on April 4.



BMW have never felt that ostentation served any useful purpose.

So this new addition to the BMW 5 Series range doesn't flaunt its additional performance.

Only an aerodynamic spoiler hints at what lies beneath the bonnet: a six cylinder 3.5 litre fuel injected engine, which, in the racing version above, produces 470 bhp.

In this version, developed by BMW Motorsport for everyday use, it develops 210 bhp. So it's in no way being strained beyond its limits.

And without needing the extravagance of 12 cylinders or turbocharging, it can reach 60mph in approximately seven seconds.

This is not, however, one of those high

performance engines whose sheer brute force almost bullies you to drive faster than you want to go.

It's perfectly happy to dawdle along through traffic in top. And then, even below 1,000 rpm, it can pull away without snatch or shudder.

Nor is this one of those intimidating machines whose performance is almost unstoppable. For, along with the carefully developed suspension, 10" diameter disc brakes are fitted on all four wheels.

A precaution which results from our conviction that a car's braking should always be faster than its acceleration.

We're also convinced that engineering efficiency rather than just raw performance is the criterion by which any car should be judged.

So we've ensured that the M535i uses up to a third less petrol than those few cars that are as fast.

And that it can comfortably take five people and their luggage, instead of two people and their attache cases.

A fact which prompted the Financial Times, who know a good investment when they drive one, to observe of the M535i "It really does make a nonsense of cramped and nervous supercars costing more than twice as much."

There will, of course, be those for whom the notion of a race bred engine is more than their driving style actually needs.

Which is why the BMW 5 Series offers you no less than five different engines, so you can have exactly the amount of power that you want.

And though the performance of individual engines is more restrained, it is never compromised.

The two litre 520, for example, offers you a sophisticated in-line six cylinder engine. Instead of resorting to the cruder configurations that seem to tempt mass produced cars in its class.

Nor, too, is the character of any of the cars in the BMW 5 Series range ever compromised.

Each one remains a driving machine, tauter and more solid than cars whose drivers demand less.

Because each one remains a BMW: a car whose heart is in exactly the right place.



THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

Bernard Levin

What's your name then?

We are always told that it is rude to make jokes or other adverse comments about people's faces or names, as no one can help either. Since neither half of the proposition is true (anyone can change his name, and the variety of aids to face-amendment is constantly growing), I have never seen the whole I have obeyed it, if only for the sake of peace and quiet. So when, a few years ago, I stumbled across a little American book called *Remarkable Names of Real People*, by John Train, I said nothing, though the book consisted entirely of a list of names which excited mirth without any additional comment at all.

Now, however, doubtless encouraged by the success of his first volume, Mr Train has published a sequel, *Even More Remarkable Names*, and I can no longer refrain. The whole thing started with a letter from a lady in Florida who wrote to a local academic to enquire whether she had the funniest name in the world; her desire for reassurance on the point was understandable, in view of the fact that she was called Mrs Verbal Funderburk, but the book was destined to give reassurance of a very different kind—by the time the reader has finished it, the good Mrs F might as well be called Smith or Jones for all the impact she makes. Indeed, an amazingly rich is Mr Train's collection that he can afford to throw away, in the introduction to his first volume such figures as Mac Arool, Clear Stubbs and Virgin Lands, and to relegate to the humble status of footnotes in his second such figures as Legitimus, Equinox, Grossnickel, Zedibba, Cabbagelack, Halibut, Jush Fish and the siblings Bump and Twinkle Quick.

But what would you? The first volume starts with A. A. D'Artagnan Umlapagagas Dynamic Macaulay, and goes on almost immediately with Ave Maria Klinkenberg and Bambina Broccoli. The editor then rather spoils things by including Batsheba Finkelstein. I will have him know that my celebrated Bessarabian grandmother was called Batsheba Nemkovsky, and anyway Batsheba is one of the most beautiful of names, whatever it may be followed by. But Miss Finkelstein is followed in volume one by—I now begin to quote at random, there really being no other place to quote at—the Reverend Canaan Banana, now President of Zimbabwe (though President Gubbins of Chad is unaccountably omitted), Daphne Reader's Digest, Talone (who reminds me that there is a town in Arizona called Truth and Consequences, after a television quiz-game of the inclusion of place-names), and a host of others. The volume too far, possibly even as it as that town in New Zealand, from which I occasionally get a postcard, which is mysteriously entitled Levin).

Charles Adolphe Faux-Bas Bide, Gaston J. Feblebunny, Halloween Buggage, Madonna Ghostly, Mark Clark Van Ark, Trailing Arbutus Vines and Zoda Viola Kiontz Gezola. But that was only the first slant. *Even More Remarkable Names* includes Aurora Borealis Belsky, Cardiac Arrest da Silva, Christ T. Seraphim, Easter Buggage (daughter of the Halloween Buggage in the first book, and born between the two) Ecstasy Goon, Eucalyptus Yohno, Hector Specter, Heidi Yum-Yum Gluck, Hogswallow Twaddle, Pirouette Spiegel, Odious Champagne, Solomon Gemorah and John Hodge Opera House Centennial Gargling Oil Samuel J. Tilden Ten Brook, Oh, and Pepsi Cola Atom-Bomb Washington.

Now it must be stressed that Mr Train insists on documentary proof of the existence of these people before he will include them in his compilations; difficult though it may be to believe, therefore, there really are (or were, for he includes dead but verified examples, too) people who go or have gone through life with handles such as these. It is vain to speculate on what precisely, or in some cases even approximately, their parents thought they were doing; it is equally

vain to feel that they ought not to be made mock of; our guilt will not help to cure their neuroses. But of course the only point in writing a column on a subject like this is to go one, or better still several, better.

We who do upon Beachcomber's List of Huntingdonshire Cabmen and the Seven Red-Bearded Dwarfs (who included Sophus Barkaya-Tong, Edelel Edel, Frums Gillygoose and—oh, I might as well give them all—Scorpion de Rooftrouser, Churn Rincewind, Cleveland Zackhouse and tocolony Tubdierboast) are hardly likely to be impressed by Plato Foulas, Mrs Tackaberry McAdoo and Thumelda Neusickle, from Mr Train's first volume, or Loch Ness Hontas, Lavender Hankey or Earless Romero, from his second, genuine articles though they be, and a nation which has in its time had the Denis Healey as its Chancellor of the Exchequer will not consider Mr Train's work done until a third volume includes that much-abused Siamese finance minister of some years back, Prince Dam Rong.

Jan Mackay, the great *New Chronicle* columnist, once dug out of some ancient newspaper files the result of a competition to name the most remarkable real name, and printed a selection of the finalists, though without much hope, as he said, of convincing his readers that he hadn't made them up. Which is not surprising in view of the fact that they included Sepimus Bush, Fish and through Trial And Tribulation We Come At Last To Heaven Slappe.

My family used to know a New York family which, in the first flush of enthusiasm for Freud's newest ally in the 1940s, named their son Joseph Stalin Pomerantz; only the other day my eye fell upon the striking moniker Brigadier O'Brien Twohig; for years and years I used to think that the famous Irish solicitor, Argeel, and Phibbs were apocryphal, until somebody sent me a letter he had received from them; and Herbert Kreizmer of the *Daily Mail* insists that there is a man in the Nairobi telephone book called Theanderblast Mischgedag Sump, though it is only right to add that I do not believe him.

It is the same Kreizmer, incidentally, who told me the lamentable tale of George C. Ziglbauser, of whom I was reminded when I came across Glosia Werberserch-Piffel, a Hollywood actress, in Mr Train's compilation. George C. Ziglbauser was a well-known Hollywood figure in the Thirties. I think in some lesser but essential trade such as make-up or sex-industry, who was constantly suffering teasing, jeers and ridicule because of his name. Eventually he could bear no more, and changed his name to Sinclair, which did him little good, as he was ever thereafter known throughout the industry as Upton Ziglbauser.

Once, staying with Quentin Crewe, I plucked down Willy's Who and read aloud, in sonorous tones (I subsequently set the whole thing to music), my favourite entry, which reads, in part:

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, 7th Bt; son of Rustomjee J. C. Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy and Soonabai Rustomjee Byramjee Jejeebhoy. Succeeded cousin, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, 6th Bt, and assumed name of Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy in lieu of Maneckjee Rustomjee Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy. Chairman, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Charity Funds, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Parsse Benevolent Institution, Trustee, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy School of Arts, Byramjee Jejeebhoy Parsse Benevolent Institution. Heir: Rustomjee Jejeebhoy. Blame me if Quentin didn't promptly cap it by bidding me turn to:

Sir Olaturo Oba Alajeluwa Olagbegi II, the Olowo of Owo, son of Oba Alajeluwa Olagbegi I; married, many sons and daughters; Educated, Owo Government School; Treasury Clerk in Owo Native Administration; Address: PO Box 1, Afin Oba Olowo Owo; Telephone number: Owo 1.

Geoffrey Jones, president of the Veterans of the OSS, told my colleague Michael Leapman in New York yesterday that they thought it appropriate the award should go to a woman this time, not least because during the war the OSS had worked closely with a woman's branch of the British Service, which he recalled being known as Fany.

"Mrs Thatcher embodies the fighting spirit, courage and willingness to take risks to achieve goals, as the general did," said Jones. "And anyway, we're sort of running out of old dodos who were with us in the service."

Discussing the charges directed on moral grounds against the Nationality Bill, my article last week placed on those who object to it as "racist" the onus of saying with some precision what they mean by race. Do they define it principally by cultural tradition, a sense of shared identity and language—or is colour for them the crucial determinant of racial difference?

No answers to these questions have yet been forthcoming. With due respect to the Archbishop of Liverpool, I suggest that his argument is beside the point when he asserts (February 18) that the Bill has "racial implications" because it would change the basis of the right to nationality from birth in the country (*ius soli*) to that of parentage (*ius sanguinis*). In practice, both terms have generally boiled down to the same thing. The right of nationality derived from birth in the country only held good historically because it was assumed that people born in the country usually bore some degree of kinship with those to whom the country belonged.

I do, however, not feel any obligation myself to enter the quagmire of semantics involved in any attempt to define "race" with precision, since it is not a term that I think relevant to this Bill. Instead, it is more profitable to try to discover what constitutes the moral basis for the concept of nationhood and national allegiance, since this is something about which church leaders are conspicuously quiet.

It is obviously possible to assert in theory that, in an ideal world, there would everywhere be an open door; complete freedom of movement by any one; an end to passports and a sense of universal brotherhood under a world authority. That is as logically respectable a position to advance as total pacifism on theological grounds—and just about as impracticable. The reality is that there will continue to be separate states and nations, both providing part of the cement of cohesion necessary for any human society.

Sometimes state and nation are coterminous but by no means always. In Britain there are three nations, the English, Scottish and Welsh (four if the Northern Irish majority is included) each cherishing its sense of nationhood while giving overwhelming

loyalty to the common state. Great Britain, whose Crown unites them. In Spain there are several nations and there is some friction between them; in Belgium there are two linguistic nations whose rivalry is the most disruptive part of Belgian politics, though to an outsider the Belgians still seem united by more than divides them. In Germany there is one nation but two political states.

The USSR and throughout the states of Asia and Africa there are multiplicities of national tribal and linguistic divisions which are of great political and social importance. In the new Zimbabwe, there is strife between two tribal nations.

The essential feature of nationhood is, of course, the wish of people sharing the same sense of identity, customs, and (in the broader sense) kinship, to live together in the same territory. They do not wish to share that territory with any sizable (the qualification is all-important) number of others. Several nations can give allegiance to a state, but they usually wish to occupy their own part of its land and their wish is usually understood.

We do not, for instance, think it odd or reprehensible that many Welsh people should feel anxious for their culture if their valleys are occupied by too many English but we are expected, it seems, to think it morally objectionable for an urban Englishman to complain when he finds himself in a "national" minority in the district where he lives. The fundamental fact of nationhood is that people with the same traditions, background and language, enjoying the easy interchange of shared understanding, tend to like living and working together.

Yet with a prospect that in greater London about 20 per cent of the future population will be of New Commonwealth or Pakistani origin (the concentration is much higher in particular districts) the English inhabitants are

Ronald Butt

Rebirth of a nation

There is no comparison between the sort of immigration experienced by Britain in the past 30 years and what happened in the previous 1,500

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Yet with a prospect that in greater London about 20 per cent of the future population will be of New Commonwealth or Pakistani origin (the concentration is much higher in particular districts) the English inhabitants are

exhorting not to notice or to mind. They are told that historically they have always been a mixture (Danes, Normans and Huguenots are called in aid) and that what is happening is nothing new.

In reality, the English people have been pretty homogeneous since the first English settled their part of this island 1,500 years ago. Anglo-Saxons and Danes were similar and neighbouring peoples speaking a similar language and sharing an ancient culture and religious tradition from pre-Christian times. Once the Danes ceased to come, those here were easily assimilated. As for the Normans, they were themselves Vikings speaking French, and they came in small numbers as a conquering upper class. For a couple of centuries it cannot have been pleasant to be a downgraded Anglo-Saxon, but in due course, with the Normans cut off from their French relations, homogeneity began again to prevail and shared Englishness reasserted itself, with one common language.

As for the refugees, the Huguenots came in limited numbers to Britain precisely because they were turned out of France for professing the same religion as the English majority; while the Jews came as refugees from tyrannies, not as a migration looking simply for prosperity.

In short, there is no comparison in either kind or extent between the sort of immigration experienced by Britain in the past 30 years and what happened in the previous 1,500. What has happened recently has created new ghettos and uneasy community relations which have to be corrected by force of law. It has been an immigration of people many of whom have a wholly different culture and language; some of whom wish to preserve this difference by arranged marriages.

Sometimes, of course, they are discriminated against. Yet which of the immigrant groups is really able to cast

the first stone in this matter of discrimination by kindred and national grouping? It has been commonplace for "ethnic" groups to work together. We used to take it quite for granted that there were many Jewish firms employing principally Jews; I do not hear many complaints now about factory shifts divided ethnically among different groups of new immigrants. Yet if there were cohabitable "English" places of work, there would immediately be charges of racial discrimination.

Indeed, we invent procedures under which it is pronounced that not to allow a Sikh nurse to wear trousers on duty is racial discrimination and which demands instead that in this hospital obligatory uniform skirts should be abandoned for all nurses. At the time of the Bristol riots, it was freely suggested that the cause was the refusal of the police to bend the law to suit minority attitudes over duels.

It has repeatedly been alleged that fears of disturbing rivalries within the community were unjustified and only self-fulfilling. Yet at the very moment that the Nationality Bill is so bitterly attacked as racist, Mr Whitelaw feels obliged to instigate a investigation into extremist groups that really are racist in a malign sense, that offer hostility and violence to immigrants already settled as peaceful subjects of the Crown; racialist groups that flourish out of a sense of insecurity among some of the older nationalities in these islands.

A new feeling of nationality is now needed to embrace all who live here.

Why should religious leaders condemn this sense of nationhood any more than the sense of family? Each has its own moral obligations and its own part in the scheme of human life. After immigration such as we have known in the past quarter of a century, a new sense of cohesion must be created. Nationality must be redefined so as to take account of all new here who have been recent immigrants. But for social stability we need to draw a line across the page of recent immigration. That is as important as it was when Danes and Normans were cut off from their external roots. Nationality has to be redefined, when it is some of its cause, to mean hard to some individuals, in order to recreate national cohesion. I cannot see what, on religious or moral grounds, is objectionable about that.

Have a care when someone says share

New words and new meanings: an occasional series by Philip Howard

I think that we need to keep our eyes and ears on this so-called moral majority that is supposed to have helped to elect Ronald Reagan as President. Not only must we question their assertion that they are in a majority, and their desire to turn it into a monopoly. Not only must we remember that moral majorities are in most cases two per cent moral, 28 per cent envy and feeble-mindedness. We must also watch their language, so that their Pecksniffian cant does not seep into general use without challenge. As William Balfour de La Motte, memorably, in *The Seaman's Spiritual Companion*:

"So 'tis with Christians, Nature being weak, While in this world are liable to leak." Let us plug a leak or two.

It has recently become fashionable for orators of all sorts to open their speeches to their audience with a sentence with: "I want to share with you..." or words to that effect. This use of share comes from the enthusiastic jargon of born-again Christians. It is a funny use of share, something that people share something, they keep apart for themselves, and divide the rest among others, often equally. Your moral majority orator keeps back nothing for himself or herself, but shares the stars sharing. It all leaks out.

Memo to oneself: when a speaker announces that he is going to share something with you, resign yourself to listening to a speech that is intolerably long, smug, and sanctimonious. If you are lucky enough to hear a speaker rather than a politician, he may also talk confessing grand but improbable and vague sins.

This specialized, selfish version of sharing comes from the hot, thick right of politics. The sanctimonious new use of "sharing" comes, I suspect, from the left or, at any rate, the wet. It has become a very fashionable as a vacuous hooray-word in the cant of left-wing and liberal politics. It lays claim to a monopoly of righteousness for the speaker or his programme or policy. Anybody who opposes him is an uncaring, unfeeling, and, I dare say, racist pig.

Well, we all care about something. A man who cared about nothing would be a catatonie vegetable. Sam Johnson observed that some people have a foolish way of not minding, or pretending not to mind, what they do. For his part, he minded his belly very studiously, and very carefully. For I look upon it, that he who does not mind his belly will hardly mind anything else. The vague use of caring, like moral majority, assumes piously and stupidly that nobody else cares or has morals.

Sometimes the two moral majority words are used together, as in a sentence, moralizing slogan: "If everybody cared enough, and everybody shared enough, surely everybody would have enough?" That is simple-minded economic nonsense in the name of caring, and in the world taken as it is, big, happy family. We need more than caring, sharing, jargon in the real world. It is also noticeable that those who make such windy rhetoric are well-fed, well-dressed, and well-off. The louder the moral majority talk about sharing and caring, the faster let us count our spoons.

Correction

In the article on New Delhi published on Monday, Sir Ronald Blomfield should have been named as the alternative partner to Sir Edwin Lutyens and not his uncle, Sir Arthur Blomfield.

Marcel Berins
Legal Correspondent

Judging the judicial monarch

Lord Denning excites extremes of opposing views. Seen by some as a saint who can do no wrong, by others as a once great judge who is now ruled more by prejudice than by the law, he is, like no other judge of this century, the subject of intense interest and controversy, and not just among lawyers. He is now 82, and there is much speculation about whether or not he should resign. He shows no signs of failing mental ability, but has, in some eyes, become too big for his judicial boots.

The trouble about the Denning debate is that much of it is based on emotion rather than knowledge. A few striking cases stay in the memory, and they are different cases for different people. To the majority of the population he is probably known as the champion of the little man battling against the authority, the judge who chooses to do justice rather than keep to the strict letter of the law. But that is not the universal view of him. He arouses apoplexy in other circles.

A group of young law lecturers, mainly from Scottish universities, have set themselves the task of trying to answer the great Denning conundrum: "Does this judicial monarch wear any conceptual clothes? Are his judgments based on anything more than hunch, whim or even prejudice, and thus an affront to true law, which forms a cohesive system, is consistent in application and so predictable in its future effects? Is the justice which he so often invokes as his guiding light amid the encircling gloom of bad precedents not a futile and wayward torch? And how can this brazen judicial law-making be reconciled with the assumptions of parliamentary democracy?"

As the above passage may suggest, the authors of the various essays in *Judicial Monarchy* (Gower Publishing, hardback £10.50, paperback £5.50) are not committed Denning-lovers. Their analysis, however, deserves attention as an antidote both to the excessive and sometimes embarrassing hero-worship and praise that has attended the Master of the Rolls, and to the mindless and ill-founded political slanging to which he has sometimes been subjected.

The conclusions reached may not be palatable to the uncritical admirers. The authors argue that Lord Denning has slowly eroded the statutory rights of tenants until they are virtually deprived of the protection which Parliament introduced; that he has been "less than vigilant in defence of the limited rights of the underprivileged"; that his judgments have made it more and more difficult to predict when and how judicial control will be exercised over the activities of administrative bodies; and that he has consistently placed himself on the side of and in support of governmental secrecy, with little or no regard for the public interest in open government.

These are not new opinions, but they are at least made following detailed examination of Lord Denning's judgments and his extra-judicial comments. The authors' conclusions may not convince, but their research is impressive. If there is to be continuing debate about Lord Denning, this is the level at which it should be conducted.

Marcel Berins
Legal Correspondent



A relaxed Lord Denning in his garden.

LONDON DIARY

Maggie wins the Fany award

One of the highlights of the Prime Minister's visit to the United States later this month, apart of course from allowing President Reagan to have an audience with her, will be the presentation to her of the Donovan Prize, a little-known award of which Mrs Thatcher will be the first woman recipient.

The prize is named after a certain General "Wild Bill" Donovan, a First World War American hero who led the fighting Irish of New York. In the Second World War Donovan rose to be head of the Office of Strategic Services, the Americans' principal intelligence and black propaganda outfit.

Donovan died in 1959, and a body known as the "Veterans of the OSS" established the award in his memory. It is presented to suitable candidates who embodied the general's love of freedom and democracy.

The lovers of freedom and democracy who have had this honour bestowed upon them in the past have not all been remarkable for their left-wing, or even middle-of-the-road, views. They include Allen Dulles, the one-time head of the CIA, Earl Mountbatten, the moon astronaut Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, David Bruce, the former US ambassador in London, and Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the Gaullist president of the French National Assembly.

Geoffrey Jones, president of the Veterans of the OSS, told my colleague Michael Leapman in New York yesterday that they thought it appropriate the award should go to a woman this time, not least because during the war the OSS had worked closely with a woman's branch of the British Service, which he recalled being known as Fany.

"Mrs Thatcher embodies the fighting spirit, courage and willingness to take risks to achieve goals, as the general did," said Jones. "And anyway, we're sort of running out of old dodos who were with us in the service."

On the button

The corridors of Whitehall will be emptying earlier than usual on Monday as civil servants hurry home to see the first in a new series of the BBC2 comedy series, *Yes Minister*.

Although the scripts were written last summer, the problems which will confront Jim Hacker and Sir Humphrey Appleby in coming weeks have a remarkably topical flavour: overmanning in the health service, an appearance before a Commons Select Committee, and an increase in overseas students' fees.

The programmes are meticulously researched. Scriptwriters and leading actors have set in on Select committee hearings, and visited a minister's private office at the invitation of civil servants. As a result, perceptive viewers will observe that Hacker's diary is always filled in with a pencil, never in ink. "Just one of the little things we noticed," co-author Antony Jay told me.

Our own wide coverage of Whitehall affairs, as well as the revelations of Crossman and other political diarists, have all

provided material for the series. Jay also draws on an extensive network of retired permanent secretaries. He is particularly pleased with the accuracy of a forthcoming scene in which Sir Humphrey is ticked off by the Secretary of the Cabinet.

"I think we've got the language right," he told me with conviction. The format of the series has already been sold to an American television company, and a professor of politics from California has even asked for tapes of the programme to show to his students.

Wet line

I hear that a new use has been found for part of the redundant 165-mile network of underground pipes belonging to the London Hydraulic Power Company that used to raise the bascules of Tower Bridge, lower the safety curtain of the Palladium, and elevate shoppers to the upper floors of Harrods.

Permission is being sought by the GLC to install a data transmission link between County Hall and New Scotland Yard. The fibre optics cable to

be laid in one of the old water pipes, is not, I was assured yesterday, to enable the police to keep a closer eye on some of the darker machinations of



County Hall. It is to link new GLC and police computers which will control London's traffic lights and, it is hoped, cut journey times by 8 per cent.

At least that is what the GLC claimed. They also said that the present computer controlling 1,100 traffic lights had cut journey times in central London by one-tenth. I can't say I'd noticed.

London Hydraulic gave up providing water power in 1977, and since then have not known what to do with their pipelines, they dismissed suggestions that they be used to pump ice cream around the metropolis from one Dayville's parlour to another.

The suspicious GLC cable will cross Westminster Bridge by a duct and join the old Hydraulic network under Big Ben, to continue up Victoria Street. For some reason yesterday the Hydraulic company's manager was distinctly unwilling to talk about it, although the firm thinks the use of their network for data transmission could be greatly extended. As one pipeline runs directly from Limehouse to Westminster, I

suppose it could be converted to carry social democratic manifestos.

Book now

Glad tidings today to bibliophiles and bibliographers, who must after this long, hot summer, be turning to books. Glad tidings to the time to buy that vast annotated Tacitus, with a trickle of text surrounded by vast swamps of commentary and gloss.

This will enable academic publishers, who have large numbers of books in their warehouses unsold because of the impoverishment of the reading classes, to clear their shelves and convert their stock into cash.

It is the first time that publishers have marked books direct at a discount except through the various Book-of-the-Month Clubs. Not such glad tidings, however, for the conventional booksellers, who screamed foul and described the scheme as a travesty of

book marketing and partial re-moulding quite outside book trade channels.

After indignation consultation, the same discount will also be available through selected bookshops. Glad tidings for classicists, anyway. This really is the time to buy that vast annotated Tacitus, with a trickle of text surrounded by vast swamps of commentary and gloss.

White odds are about even on the Pope saying Mass in Canterbury Cathedral in 1982. I gather there is an outside chance of an even more Baroque communion with his visit—the canonization of that good and saintly king, Henry VI. Some 150 miracles have been attributed to his name: what more could the Pope want, in advertising the spirit of ecumenical benevolence, than to bring a saint ready for mutual acclamation? He missed the Reformation, by some 500 years, which makes him safely non-controversial.

Alan Hamilton



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234.

NUCLEAR POWER IN DISARRAY

In its first report, the new Select Committee on Energy has made a powerful attack on the nuclear industry. This is not surprising. The history of the development of nuclear power in Britain over the past decade and a half has been a sorry tale of wrong decisions, missed opportunities, and wasted money. But this does not mean that the Committee's recommendations are right.

On coming to power the present administration quickly realized that the nuclear industry was in disarray, and that if nuclear power was going to play an important role in meeting the energy needs of the future it would need new orders and a commitment to a steady ordering programme. In fact, Mr. Howell's statement of December 1979 was little more than a reaffirmation of the policy of the previous government. It backed the electricity authorities in building two British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs), while establishing the option of an alternative by putting an American pressurized water reactor (PWR)—the type damaged at Three Mile Island—through a public inquiry, and ordering roughly one station a year of each type for ten years from 1982.

The programme appeared modest but rapidly ran into trouble as the Central Electricity Generating Board cut its demand estimates by 7 per cent. The

Central Policy Review Staff was called in to examine whether the two recently ordered British AGRs should go ahead. After much heart searching in Cabinet the industry was allowed to continue with both. The Select Committee has not had the benefit of seeing the CPRS report, but it is convinced that only one of the AGRs should have been ordered. A minority of three of its members believed it was wrong to order either, arguing that the generating capacity that was unnecessary and that the British design would be unlikely to produce electricity at sufficiently low cost.

The committee recognizes that it is now too late to cancel either order. In fact there have always been strong industrial arguments for keeping both going, as it is extremely doubtful whether the building of one AGR after a ten-year break in ordering would have been sufficient to keep the British design as a true alternative if the American PWR failed to win public consent. But the main thrust of the Committee's argument is to suggest that failing to order a second AGR would have been a disaster. Mr. Howell's programme, over-ambitious, it therefore recommends that each new order should be evaluated on its economic merits.

This does not seem sharply different from Mr. Howell's own statement that the precise level of future ordering should depend

on the development of electricity demand and the performance of the industry. But it is very different in spirit. It rejects the idea of a steady ordering programme, which the industry so desperately needs. In fact the Committee does not want another station to be ordered until the first PWR is nearing completion, and that is likely to be at least six years away. The report says the Committee does not want to create uncertainty, but that is exactly what it does, and that uncertainty is compounded by a recommendation that the Government look urgently at the Canadian CANDU reactor, the performance and safety of which the Committee much admires.

The CANDU option is seen by the Committee as an alternative if the PWR fails its public inquiry. That is always a possibility but there can be no guarantee that the CANDU would be any more acceptable than the PWR, and in the AGR Britain has a machine which, despite its high cost and unreliability, is regarded by many as a potentially successful reactor. The Government would be well advised to stick to the policy it has adopted. In providing energy for the future it is better to over-order rather than under-order. More than anything else, what the nuclear industry now needs is the assurance of stable policies.

AMERICA'S DILEMMA IN EL SALVADOR

The European trip by Mr. Lawrence Eagleburger, the Assistant Secretary of State designate, is an indication of the seriousness with which the Reagan Administration is treating the crisis in El Salvador. Mr. Eagleburger, who is due in London today, has already been in Bonn, Paris and Brussels, and in each place he has been anxious to present the American version of events. Basically, this is that the Soviet Union, Cuba and other communist countries are intervening in El Salvador by providing military aid to the guerrilla movement, and that the governing junta of military men and Christian Democrats should be supported. Clearly Mr. Eagleburger must be listened to and his evidence of foreign intervention studied. Equally clearly he must expect a certain scepticism. The unfortunate truth about El Salvador is that it has suffered from military repression for nearly 50 years, and that the military have tended to be supported by moneyed interests and the political right. Like other similar regimes in Central America, the Salvadorean military have also been backed by the United States. It is not to condone the activities of the guerrillas to say that it is hardly surprising that a violent

resistance movement has grown up. Its emergence is not the doing of Cubans or other outside agents. The best way for the Americans to react is not simply to back a policy of repression in the name of anti-communism. Such an approach can do nothing to solve the very serious difficulties faced by El Salvador, and could in the long run lead to the installation of just the sort of anti-American leftist regime it was intended to prevent.

If there is firm evidence of Soviet, Cuban or other intervention in El Salvador, that would be a serious matter, and no European government could let it lightly. But the crisis in El Salvador, like difficulties in the rest of Central America, is more a matter of foreign intervention, and Europeans would like to feel that the Reagan Administration appreciates the complexity of the situation. The Carter Administration understood the issue, and responded by seeking amicable relations with the revolutionary government of Nicaragua, promoting reform in El Salvador, and emphasizing human rights throughout the region. The policy failed in El Salvador because the moderates who joined the military government were not able to control the

rightists in the armed forces and elsewhere. But that is no reason to revert to the simplistic approach of previous administrations, which tended to put the fight against communism above all other considerations.

The danger for the Americans is that El Salvador could become a running sore in their foreign policy, with public opinion ranged against them across the world. Parallels could be drawn with Vietnam or Afghanistan if they went so far as to commit troops. Luckily there is every sign that they are aware of the danger and Mr. Eagleburger's trip with its aim of consulting America's allies before policy has been formed, is to be welcomed. It is true that El Salvador, on the United States' doorstep, is of far greater concern to them than to the Europeans. It is also true that some European countries would be prepared to support American policy in El Salvador, whatever it was, because of their need for American support in areas of greater importance to them. But an American policy of just providing arms and not trying to bring about a negotiated settlement would cause considerable strains.

CIVIL SABOTEURS?

The Civil Service unions, who have been offered 6 per cent and may have the sum increased to 1 per cent when they meet Lord James on Monday, have been earning themselves for industrial action to enforce a 15 per cent increase in their dues. Regional action committees have been formed, sensitive targets chosen, a "communications centre" set up in Westminster, endorsement by the membership has been secured or being sought. The way the union spokesmen see it is that civil servants are being treated in an intolerable fashion by the Government. A twenty-five-year-old agreement about the method of fixing their pay has been broken. Facts about payment of pay rates outside the union are being ignored, though produced by an independent research body. They are being discriminated against for political purposes and to set an example to others. They are angry at what they see as a breach of the agreement, and are determined to be walked over and to renege on their promises. That is how they see themselves. It is not how others see

them. From outside they look like a large, swollen, class of employees which has fared well in recent times in respect of pay, pension rights and job security. This time they are being required to make do with a small increase of a size common enough throughout manufacturing industry, and in service industries—outside the financial sector where there are still rich pickings to be had. The preparations they are making, with the care and vocabulary of a general staff, may look to them like normal collective sanctions for use by those labouring under a large grievance. From a little further away they look like a conspiracy to sabotage crucial parts of the financial business of the state.

The general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation said the other day that there was a serious risk that some of his members would sabotage tax computers because of their depth of feeling about the pay negotiations. He was careful to say that his union would not condone such action, which would indeed be criminal. If the general secretary is right and that is the state

of mind of some inland revenue officials; and if, as must be supposed, it is a state of mind that is not confined to one Civil Service union; and since a readiness to cripple some important operation of government by damaging the equipment on which it is performed is but an extreme instance of a commoner readiness to cripple the operation by damaging the administrative process necessary for its performance; then the attitude of public servants towards the duties they are entrusted with by the state has undergone a sad corruption.

In the interval of sharpening their contingency plans to disrupt the flow of government business, the leaders of the civil servants' trade unions ought to pause to reconsider the attitude that is implicit in their preparations. There are a lot of civil servants, but some have a public charge of business that is central to the state. They are in positions of exceptional public trust. They also as a class have a more than average interest in the order, effectiveness and reliability of the public administration. And of course they ought to be treated

ideo discs

from Mr David Fisher
Dr Alex Comfort's disquiet about the prospects of video discs would be easily assuaged if it were inevitable that the medium degraded its contents. However, the video disc is intrinsically malleable as print and can be produced and published exactly in accordance with an author's or a publisher's wishes. Dr Comfort does not seem to be aware of the rights of his sex-unselling book and so have to prevent tasteless elements from being reduced into a video adaptation. Perhaps Dr Comfort's argument is ally only with his publisher?

It is important to appreciate the significance of the video disc. Like broadcast television or the cinema film, it is a publishing medium which can be treated as a book. Indeed, it could carry text with no pictures, or a sequence of still or moving pictures, or any combination of these. It is under a control of the user and publisher in exactly the same way as printed matter, apart from the fact that it is an electronic device of medium and the creation as well as dissemination.

of intellectual and educative ideas and information, despite the systems' manufacturers' unfortunate tendency to miss the point by packing their video disc catalogues with old movies.

Just as developments in book and periodical publishing were welcomed as agents for spreading knowledge, so we should be prepared to accept and hasten "the mass video home market in the near future for the same purpose and reason. But with so many potentially beneficial elements of the new technology, one expects the fears and jealousies of established interests will retard, if not totally prevent progress.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FISHER, Editor,
Scribblers,
37 Gower Street, WC1,
February 7.

Arts sponsorship

From the Chairman of the Poetry Society and others
Sir, Despite the exhortations of the Minister for the Arts that arts organizations increase their income from commercial sponsorship, the experience of the Poetry Society suggests that the Arts Council of Great Britain can act to discourage this.

Having increased income from its activities—through sponsorship and otherwise—the Poetry Society lost £5,000 of its ACGS grant last year in the form of a "guarantee against loss". For next year the ACGS have reduced the society's grant by a further £5,000 (£15,000 in real terms). This further cut is probably the result of our making a surplus last year. This latest cut must place in jeopardy our ability to continue raising income in the way the Arts Council encourages. The society uses its public money so that for every £1 it receives it generates a still larger sum.

Surely financial efficiency and success should be rewarded rather than penalized by the ACGS? This should be especially so when the ACGS is cutting its own subsidy to many organizations and when public money spent on the arts should be seen to be effective in promoting the arts.

We are your obedient servants,
CLIFFORD SIMMONS, Chairman,
DANNE ARSE, President,
ALAN BROWN-JOHN, Deputy Chairman,
BERNARD BROOK-PARTIDGE,
NORMAN BUCHAN,
The Poetry Society,
21 Earls Court Square, SW5,
February 3.

Need to expand the economy

From Professor W. A. H. Godley
Sir, By general consent, the first major industrial slump since the thirties has now arrived. But those who believed a sustained recovery will occur, without a complete reversal of policy are wrong.

The Minister keeps saying that full employment policies such as those followed by Mr. Macmillan inevitably led to higher prices. This is not true. Under Mr. Butler and Mr. Macmillan inflation fell pretty steadily from 9 per cent per annum in the two years 1950-52 to under 1 per cent per annum in the two years 1958-60. Nor is it true that inflation dies down, this by itself will create jobs. An increase in jobs can only occur if there is a large and sustained increase in sales of British-produced goods and services. The exchange rate has now been so high for so long that changes in exports and import penetration are bound to exert a negative influence on sales for several years—even if inflation falls to nil. There is nothing under present policies to offset this except some small, temporary relief when despatching comes to an end.

It is time people stopped assuming that a spontaneous recovery is round the corner and realized that the slump, so far from coming to an end, is in its early stages. They should see that it is a matter of desperate urgency for the survival of our industries and the future of our society that, whether or not import controls are imposed, fiscal and monetary policy should now be designed to expand demand and bring down the exchange rate.

The longer an attempt at expansion is delayed, the more our economy will be devastated and, since new policies take a long time to be effective, the greater the difficulties that will then be encountered.

Yours faithfully,
WYNNE GODLEY,
Department of Applied Economics,
University of Cambridge,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge.

More work, more leisure

From Mr Mark Wathen
Sir, In the early thirties, as a humble junior bank clerk in a provincial town, I wrote to you on the subject of unemployment. The gist of my letter was that we had now reached an era in history when, at last, man need not work so hard, having invented machines to help him. Working hours could therefore be reduced and man could learn to use his leisure. Fearing that, in the unlikely event of your publishing my letter, my employers might disapprove, I later cabled you not to publish it. You kindly published my thoughts as a fourth letter.

Fifty years later one wonders, once more, whether this grave problem is being approached in the right way. As far as we create jobs we create machines to do those jobs. If, however, all quarters were for leisure, we could have a much shorter working week, more of us would be working and we should be able to enjoy more leisure, which we should have to learn how to use. Many of us would earn less, but many more out of work would be employed on leisure.

I have put this approach to others in responsible positions and on the shop floor; I have had nothing but agreement, with the proviso that the problems would be formidable and that it could not be done overnight. It would be interesting to hear the views of others.

Yours faithfully,
MARK WATHEN,
Talisser House,
Carbost,
Isle of Skye,
February 4.

Intervention in Poland

From Professor Robin Kempl
Sir, Soviet intervention in Polish affairs seems to be increasingly regarded as an "inevitable" corollary of the Yalta agreement on all sides one hears expressions of not only surprise and relief, but almost of gratitude and admiration, that the Russians have been "tolerant" so long.

It seems high time to point out that, by any normal standards, there is not and cannot be one iota of justification for any such interference, which, Yalta or no Yalta, socialism or no socialism, would still represent a flagrant breach of all those international obligations to which the Soviet Government voluntarily subscribed (a view recently expressed, incidentally, by other communist states such as Romania and Yugoslavia).

The measure of people's "relief" is exactly the measure of the outrage and standards of international conduct to which the Soviet Union has accustomed us hitherto. Only against such utterly false criteria does observation of the elementary norms of international decency take on any sense.

It may well be true, as you stated in your letter yesterday (February 11) that "the Soviet Union's interest in Poland is probably more military than ideological", but this applies not to the United States in relation to their NATO allies. Yet who has ever suggested that the United States had a right to intervene (let alone dreamed of intervening) militarily in any of those NATO countries which from time to time have put at risk the security of the Alliance: Turkey and Greece, Portugal (when that country seemed on the brink of a communist takeover), not to mention France, who withdrew from the NATO pact altogether?

This seems to be one more sphere in which people, even those of the highest intentions, are becoming the unwitting victims of a myth and are in serious danger of applying double standards.

I am, Sir, your faithful obedient servant,
ROBIN KEMPL,
Université de Lausanne,
Faculté des Lettres,
Section de Langues Slaves,
Rue Cité-Devant 2,
CH-1005 Lausanne,
February 12.

SAS conduct in embassy siege

From Brigadier J. J. H. Simpson (Retd)
Sir, The Attorney General has already pointed out (February 17) the selective nature of the facts advanced by Mr. Bruce Harris (February 16), and where he has his facts wrong.

As an ex-Commander of The Special Air Service, I would make two points only, which I suspect are not fully understood. The use of anything other than reasonable force was unacceptable.

Mr. Harris-Jones's suggestion that the role of a soldier's liability should be subjective is alarming. It would be impossible to have one test for the police and another for the military called in to assist them. There is room for only one test and an objective one is perfectly apt for the extraordinary and unenviable situation in which soldiers may find themselves, since it takes account of all the relevant circumstances.

A soldier bursting into an embassy occupied by heavily-armed terrorists who have already killed two of their hostages will not be expected to demonstrate the caution and restraint of a police constable approaching a suspected shop-lifter. As the Criminal Law Revision Committee said in recommending the provision that is now section 3 of the 1967 Act: "... the court, in considering what was reasonable force, would take into account all the circumstances, including in particular the nature and degree of force used, the seriousness of the evil to be prevented and the possibility of preventing it by other means" (Cmd 2659, 1966, para 23).

Without knowing any details of the Embassy siege beyond what I have read in the press or seen on television, I would venture to suggest that a number of hostages might not be alive today had the SAS not acted as they did. The SAS are a very carefully selected and professional body of men who know not only the risks they run, but also the law as it stands.

Yours faithfully,
J. J. H. SIMPSON,
c/o Barclays Bank International Ltd,
81 Old Broad Street, EC2.

Nationality Bill

From Mr Ivor Stanbrook, MP for Orpington (Conservative)
Sir, Because it was tabled at a late stage, the significance of one of the Home Secretary's proposed amendments to the Nationality Bill has not yet been fully appreciated. I believe it will be bitterly resented among British overseas.

The original Bill provides that such people, if not born in this country, will not have the right to pass on to their children that citizenship which has been their birthright and their ancestors' birthright through many centuries of British history. It also provides that immigrants to this country who become British citizens will also not have the right to pass on that citizenship to children born abroad.

This way the balance struck in the Bill between the competing claims of immigrant Britons and those of indigenous Britons living abroad, although it seemed unfair on Britons who have for generations been in the country overseas, Conservative backbenchers were prepared to accept it. As Mr. Whitehead's Private Secretary said in a letter of February 2 to the Director of the United Kingdom Immigrants' Advisory Service (Mr. John Ennals):

Zimbabwe press ownership

From Mr Colin Legum
Sir, At the time of the original announcement that Mr. Robert Mugabe's Government was planning to reform Zimbabwe's press ownership there was considerable media criticism in this country, including from yourself. But since the official plans have been announced I have not seen a single comment, either for or against, in any national newspaper.

What must therefore remain in the minds of readers of the British press is the first impression they were given that the Zimbabwe Government was simply nobbling it. I submit that all of us concerned about defending press freedom where it exists, and enlarging it where it doesn't, should take some encouragement from what is proposed in Zimbabwe.

Instead of establishing a government-controlled press—so sadly the case in much of the Third World (not, of course, to mention the communist world)—the Zimbabwe authorities have transferred ownership to a Media Media Trust, modelled somewhat on the lines of the BBC, whose charter was studied by the Minister of Information, Dr. Nathan Shamuyirira.

The appointed board of trustees

Youth and 'The Times'

From Mr John Duckworth
Sir, Many a Times reader must have felt a slight tremor of unwelcome anticipation when Mr. Murdoch spoke last night (February 16) on *Panorama* of his intention to seek to attract "the younger reader" to your columns.

I trust he may be prevailed upon to limit such efforts to increasing the subsidy you have for many years afforded your student readers. While allegations formed from such exposure to your manifold excellences must often prove lasting to the point of entry under your "Deaths" column, they might be fragile when confronted with the young, in contrast to their seniors.

What evidence have you that reading *The Times* comes upon one only in later life?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DUCKWORTH,
Lincoln House,
296/302 High Holborn, WC1.

From Professor J. D. Lever
Sir, During the course of his interview on *Panorama* this evening (February 16), Mr. Robert Murdoch declared his hope that *The Times* would in future be more attractive to a younger readership. I believe that the present devotees of *The Times* are persons of discrimination from many age groups who appreciate its incomparable journalistic standards.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. LEVER,
University College, Cardiff.

Opting out of the Canadian quarrel

From Professor Hedley Bull
Sir, It is intolerable that both sides in the Canadian constitutional dispute should be seeking to make the United Kingdom Parliament the instrument of their purposes, thus ensuring that nobody will be heard upon this matter whether it accedes to the request for "patriation" on Ottawa's terms or not.

Here, as in so many other cases in the recent past, Britain's interests are only damaged by reluctance to break free of an historical involvement that has become purely fictitious. Parliament should disregard both Ottawa and the Provinces and take steps to divest itself of all responsibility in relation to the future of the British-North America Act, thus throwing the problem back into the laps of the Canadians, where it belongs.

Yours sincerely,
HEDLEY BULL, Montague Burton Professor of International Relations, Balliol College, Oxford,
February 16.

Wembley decision

From Mr William Rodgers, MP for Teesside, Stockton (Labour)
Sir, Mr. Ken Gill (February 16) makes the point perfectly. The argument over the electoral college is not about percentages but policy or, as I would prefer to put it, principle.

Mr. Gill, who is both general secretary of AUEW (Technical and Supervisory Section)—not incidentally, of the engineering union as a whole—and a member of the executive committee of the Communist Party, claims that the Labour Party is essentially the property of the trade unions. In this way, he justifies the fact that communists, amongst others, will help to elect the Labour leader under an electoral college. He is quite frank about it. But does it really appeal to those of my colleagues in the House of Commons who have embraced an electoral college?

I see that the leaders of the new Labour Solidarity Campaign seek to reverse the Wembley decision. But "reverse" involves a return to the previous practice whereby the leader of the Labour Party has been elected by Labour MPs. Is this really their united object? Or are they at one with Mr. Gill in wanting to elect an electoral college and only hope to fiddle with the figures?

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM RODGERS,
House of Commons,
February 18.

Suspected racial attacks

From Mr Kent Barker
Sir, While a journalist should be selective reporting, especially of his own material, I must take issue with Andrew Brown as he quotes me in his letter of February 15.

Although it is true to say "there is absolutely no evidence that the National Front as a body or political party either instigates or sanctions such (racial) attacks" (my italics), what Mr. Brown fails to mention is that there is plenty of evidence to suggest that supporters and members of the National Front are consistently involved in racial attacks.

Furthermore in supporting his premise that such attacks are "further evidence that the multi-racial society has failed" Mr. Brown totally fails to consider how avowedly racist groups and organizations serve to promote such attacks by influencing the opinions of the young and impressionable. Sincerely,
KENT BARKER,
14 Crooms Hill,
Greenwich, S.E.10,
February 16.

Medical defensiveness

From Mr Gerald Robertson
Sir, Your leader "Medical defensiveness" (February 4) makes the bold statement that "in the last 10 years, the number of court cases in which doctors are accused of professional negligence has risen 10 times". This is certainly a view which many in the medical profession would have to believe, and it may well be correct with the general public's impression as a result of increased publicity surrounding such cases. However, your statement purports to be one of fact, rather than merely a reflection of medical public opinion, and as such it could scarcely be further from the truth.

The annual statistics published in relation to legal aid proceedings (which account for almost all medical negligence cases) once they are adjusted to take account of variations in the method of analysis in recent years, demonstrate that medical negligence proceedings have not even doubled in the last 10 years, let alone "risen 10 times". Uninformed editorial comment such as this only serves to compound the dangerous myth that our courts are being swamped by a tidal wave of medical negligence claims.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD ROBERTSON,
Faculty of Law,
The University,
Leicester,
February 12.

Care of ancient buildings

From Lord Mersey
Sir, I share Mr. Lloyd Webber's romantic attraction (February 16) to the overgrown state of Sagham Abbey. But it must be the case that the Department of the Environment's job is to preserve ancient buildings for future generations. And it is also the case that vegetation on a building is a parasite feeding on that building. Ivy, for instance, destroys mortar.

The DoE's plan of naked masonry "have often been described as ugly and sterile. But the alternative is monumental collapse. In 50 years' time Bayham Abbey could be no more than a pile of old stones.

Yours faithfully,
MERSEY,
Rosedale Road, W11,
February 16.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

The Deutsche mark under pressure, page 21

Why 'grannies' may get younger after the Budget, page 21

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

- Stock markets**
FT Ind 489.3 up 3.8
3-Mth Gilts 69.30 up 0.17
- Sterling**
\$2.2665 up 25 points
Index 102.2 down 0.3
- Dollar**
Index 100.2 down 1.0
DM 2.1865 down 120 pts
- Gold**
\$505.00 up 50 cents
- Money**
3-mth sterling 13.4-13.4
3-mth Euro \$ 17.1-17.1
6-mth Euro \$ 17.1-17.1

Rise in average earnings slows to less than 10pc in a year

By Frances Williams
Earnings are rising, on average, at less than 10 per cent a year, half the rate of increase of a few months ago. The Department of Employment figures published yesterday show that the rise in average earnings slowed in December for the fourth month running. Over the year the underlying increase was about 18.5 per cent, down from 21.5 per cent in September.

But in the three months to December, the underlying rise in earnings averaged 0.75 per cent a month, equivalent to an annual rate of 9.5 per cent, half the rate of increase in the previous three months.

Official figures are backed up by the latest results from the Confederation of British Industry's pay database, also published yesterday. These show that two-thirds of more than 150 notified settlements in manufacturing industry in December and January were in single figures, with the average around between 8 and 9 per cent. This compares with an average of 16 per cent in July and more than 13 per cent in August.

The index of average earnings for December was distorted by large amounts of back pay for 600,000 local authority workers, who received a 13 per cent pay rise backdated to last July. As a result, the index rose sharply to stand 19.4 per cent higher than a year previously, compared with 18.5 in the year to November.

An underlying rate of increase in earnings of 9.5 per cent means that pay is now only just keeping pace with inflation and the increasing burden of income tax and national insurance contributions.

The tax and price index, which combines the rise in retail prices and taxes on income rose at an annual rate of 9.4 per cent.

In the three months to December, the Retail Prices Index rose at an annual rate of 8.2 per cent over the same period. With only 10 per cent of the earnings index covered by the pay round before Christmas, the Department of Employment expects the annual increase in the index to start falling more rapidly as the "settlement season" gets underway. Relatively low pay settlements will then feed into the index at the same time as relatively high ones—such as the comparability awards for public service workers—drop out.

A further fall in overtime in December, down 0.4 million hours from November to 8.2 million hours a week, had less impact on earnings than lower pay settlements. Short-time working was unchanged at 7.4 million hours lost a week.

The CBI's survey—which covers 750,000 employees in manufacturing industry—found that the depressed state of company finances and fears of redundancy were the most important factors influencing low pay settlements, outweighing the pressure for rises to compensate for inflation.

Other evidence shows a large variation in recent pay settlements—down 5 to 15 per cent—depending on how badly companies have been hit by recession.

According to the February report from Incomes Data Services, most manufacturing settlements have been in single figures. But settlements in the oil industry and insurance, for example, are running closer to 15 per cent.

Nevertheless, the general trend in earnings so far suggests that the Government's forecast, made last November, for a 10 per cent rise in earnings in this pay round, remains on target.

Approval sought for £739m extra spending

By Malvern Wendle
The Government yesterday sought Parliament's approval for an extra £739m cash for public expenditure programmes. The request for extra spending came in the Spring Supplementary Estimates.

In total, the new estimates amounted to £2,015m. However, £1,280m of this related to the transfer of BL shares from the National Enterprise Board to the Department of Industry. This is essentially a bookkeeping transaction and gives rise to no net charge on the Consolidated Fund or public expenditure.

The request for £739m arises from 55 separate supplementary estimates. But, with the exception of a £176m further provision for the Temporary Short Time Working Scheme, the additional public expenditure was included in the forecast of higher spending made by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, during his November mini-Budget.

He admitted that the volume of expenditure in 1980-1981 would be some 11 per cent higher than originally thought.

The Spring Supplementary Estimates are the third and last of the annual supplementaries. These three have added almost £4,500m to the original estimates for 1980-81 laid before Parliament in March (including the £1,280m involved in the transfer of BL shares). Thus the original estimates were £56,612m, and the year's total estimates come to £61,112m.

However, there is normally some underestimating of money voted by Parliament. In recent years this underestimating has amounted to about £1,000m.

Some £395m of the supplementary estimates sought yesterday were for items covered by cash limits. Defence spending accounted for by far the largest breach of cash limits. There were just four other small breaches, totalling just under £4m. The defence cash limit is now expected to be overspent by some £260m.

Tighter surveillance of BL spending

By Edward Townsend
The Government is tightening its hold on the running of BL. It is ordering the car group to seek formal government approval for any project costing more than £25m and to submit monthly progress reports.

This arrangement will start at the end of March. It is part of the Government's plan to retain the right to veto spending if the reports showed only a "marginal move" of the company moving ahead.

Sir Keith, giving evidence to the Commons Industry and Trade Committee, said that as banker and shareholders' representative, the industry department had the right to refuse BL additional funds and to change the management.

The £25m limit on capital projects was being included because the Government wanted to retain the right to veto spending if the reports showed only a "marginal move" of the company moving ahead.

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yesterday that BL would be subject to a memorandum of understanding which would oblige the company to submit reports giving financial details. BL would be treated like the British Steel Corporation and the Post Office.

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"We would prefer to leave the BL board to make decisions on whether, what and when to sell any of the assets; these decisions are at the centre of management strategy".

During the second reading of the Industry Bill it was announced that £2,900m (and ultimately £3,250m) was earmarked for BL. This included the £590m recently approved but also covered the company's external financing from private sources and was intended to cover BL's total funding for the next five years.

The company's latest corporate plan calls for a further tranche of £1,500m from public funds in 1983 and 1984 but this is yet to be approved.

Sir Keith told the committee yesterday that the Government hoped BL would be able to raise finance from depreciation, profits, the private sector and through collaboration deals with other companies. But there were grounds for scepticism and BL was operating in "an immensely tough market".

Asked to justify the £590m aid, which will be given to BL in the form of new equity, Sir Keith said that while the Government was impressed by the success of the Mini-Metro, it was "appalled" at the cost to the taxpayer. However, productivity had improved and industrial relations were far better than in the past.

European trade warning to Japan

A European delegation has warned Japan to restrain its exports to western Europe, or face the consequences.

"The time for discussion has ended. Urgent decisions are needed to restrain Japanese exports to Europe," Sir Fred Warner, the former British ambassador to Japan, said in Tokyo.

Sir Fred led a 17-member delegation during two days of talks in Japan.

Without urgent action, western European public opinion would demand strong measures to safeguard its industries, he said.

Japan would have to decide whether to open up its markets to EEC imports as well as to restrain exports to Europe.

Meanwhile, Japan is seeking assurances from the Community that its import monitoring system will still allow Japanese goods to flow freely into Western Europe.

Dollar loses ground against mark

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent
The Deutsche mark regained further ground against the dollar yesterday as speculation rose that the Federal Reserve Bank would announce a rise in official West German interest rates.

At the close, the dollar was down a further 1.2 pence to DM 2.1865, having rallied from an early fall to around DM 2.1550.

If the Germans raise their Lombard rate, at present 9 per cent, some other countries, within the European Monetary System may follow suit. It is a general attempt to narrow the differential between interest rates in Europe and those in the United States.

The one major exception to such a trend would be the United Kingdom, where official interest rates are expected to come down in next month's Budget—though a minority market view still feels that a reduction could come before then.

As a result enough sterling was available for sale against most continental currencies yesterday, though it recovered from a "low" of DM 4.91 to show a net fall of only 11 pence against the German currency at DM 4.96.

Against the dollar, sterling gained 10 points to \$2.2665, briefly rising above the \$2.28 level.

In domestic financial markets the "make-up" day for the February banking month passed without problems. There was a moderate surplus of funds moving from the Exchange to the markets and short-term interest rates were not upset.

Gilt-edged stocks were quietly firm with rises of up to 25p at the long end of the market. The government broker was able to sell a small amount of Treasury 12 per cent 1986 at £20 1/16.

Banks refuse to raise 8.5pc clerical pay offer

By David Felton
Labour Reporter
The prospect of industrial action in banks was raised yesterday after employers refused to increase their 8.5 per cent pay offer to 200,000 clerical workers.

The TUC-affiliated Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) which represents about 70,000 staff, said negotiations had broken down and there would be no further meetings unless the employers indicated that further money was available.

Its leaders will now get the views of members on whether there is support for industrial action, and will consider in the next few weeks whether to hold a full ballot of the membership for industrial action, which is necessary under union rules.

The Clearing Bank Union, the other main union in the industry, which has about 90,000 members, met employers in separate talks yesterday. It was unclear whether the "demarcating" manner in which their arguments had been treated in the offer had been treated.

The CBU, which was formed by the amalgamation of the staff associations at Barclays, National Westminster and Lloyds banks, has a moderate membership, but Mr Jack Britz, the general secretary, said last night that he was sure there would be calls for industrial action from some members.

Unlike Bifu, the Confederation of British Industry is expecting to have further talks with the employers early next month.

Both unions apparently argued that the banks could afford to meet their respective claims in full. The CBU is seeking a cost of living increase.

while Bifu submitted a 20 per cent claim linked to other improvements in conditions and fringe benefits.

Mr Britz said that if the offer was accepted, bank employees would see their standards of living eroded.

In an unusual display of agreement with the CBU, Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of BIFU said: "The attitude of the employers is Edwardian, bordering on the Victorian. They seem quite oblivious to the fact that under the offer the living standards of their staff would be considerably reduced."

Mr Mills expected that the clearing banks would be making dividend increases to shareholders running into double figures as a result of the profits they have made this year.

"It would be quite monstrous for shareholders to receive a double figure increase while their staffs are kept to this level," he said.

The unions argued that in view of substantial increases won by workers in other sections of the finance industry, particularly insurance, where settlements of 11 and 14 per cent, their members should receive similar increases.

The Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers said last night that its negotiators had reiterated the wish for a single figure settlement and "it had heard nothing at this stage to make it change its offer of 8.5 per cent."

Under the offer, the starting salary for grade two employees, the category into which most cashiers fall, would rise from £2,958 to £3,209, and the salary of a senior cashier would go up from £4,952 to £5,373.

Americans face 'rough medicine' of spending cuts

Reagan policy aims for fourfold jump in economic growth in 1982

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Feb 18
The White House is wringing the Council of Economic Advisors to adopt still tighter money policies. At the same time, the administration's economists expect sharp reductions in interest rates this year.

Mr Murray Wiedenbaum, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, and the White House's chief economist said that President Reagan's programme would "dramatically" alter expectations about future inflation.

As hopes rose of a cut in inflation rates, so there would be "very substantial reductions" in interest rates.

Dr Wiedenbaum said: "We will expand the economy far more rapidly than has been historically possible, because of our supply-side approach."

The Americans hope that tax cuts and other incentives will boost the supply of goods and services and thus stimulate growth.

He said the new programme aimed to secure a 4.2 per cent real economic growth next year after a 1.1 per cent rise this year and that real gross national product would then increase by 5 per cent in 1983, 4.5 per cent in 1984, 4.2 per cent in 1985 and 4.2 per cent in 1986.

The rate of consumer price increases would decline next year to 8.3 per cent from 11.1 per cent this year, then fall to 6.2 per cent in 1983, 5.5 per cent in 1984, 4.7 per cent in 1985 and 4.2 per cent in 1986.

Mr Reagan's programme specifically calls for tight

policies to halve the 1980 rate of growth in money supply by 1982.

Officials said that expectations were crucial to the success of the programme and to the attainment of both high economic growth and low inflation.

One observer described the programme as "a great deal can go wrong".

Financial markets are likely to take a similar view, and they are unlikely to become much more bullish as a result of today's announcements.

America is facing intense European pressure to reduce interest rates, but officials said that today's programme was likely to be viewed as a good response as the decline in inflation expectations would lead swiftly to lower United States rates.

This would promote greater stability in currency markets, officials said.

The White House has committed itself to work closely with other industrial countries to secure consistent international economic policies. These would help promote price stability and economic growth and reduce protectionist pressures.

Dr Wiedenbaum said: "This is an innovative programme designed to break away from the standard stop and go policies of the past. For example, we are assuming a new steadiness in both fiscal and monetary policies over many years—we are talking

about a new stability in American economic policies."

He said 1981 was going to be the year when Americans have to take the "rough medicine" of public spending cuts and tight money policies which would not be accompanied by rapid economic growth.

But as the tax cuts went ahead and the spending cuts reduced government borrowing, so the economy would grow, he said.

"We are breaking the back of inflationary expectations. . . . We will generate increases in productivity, work savings and investment, that will secure the major economic growth that we forecast."

Dr Wiedenbaum said that even the 4 per cent plus rates of economic growth predicted for the next few years would leave some slack in the economy and would not strain the economy's productive capacity.

He said that new forecasts showed the rate of unemployment moving from 7.8 per cent this year to 7.2 per cent next year, then down to 6.6 per cent in 1983, 6.4 per cent in 1984, and 6 per cent in 1985.

Dr Wiedenbaum argued that even better growth might be achieved if the programme was put into place "quickly and completely".

Under intense questioning, he admitted that he knew of a country where such a dramatic change in economic conditions had been achieved. He added: "Nobody has tried this supply-side approach this way. We are breaking new ground in the policy arena."

Rates rises 'may force companies to close'

By Patricia Tisdall
Companies are faced with closure and redundancies because of the proposed large increases in local authority rates, the deputy director general of the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

"We recognize that the change from rate support grant to block grant means that some authorities will receive less money than they had expected and may have to raise their rates. But this does not explain why some areas such as Hackney are apparently looking for increases of 70 per cent. Rates are increasing out of all proportion to companies' ability to pay," he said.

The CBI expects rate increases to average 20 per cent but has calculated that a minimum overall increase would add £800m to industry costs in the coming financial year. It would mean that the rates bill for industry which is now about £4,200m would increase to about £5,000m.

"With some companies such as ICI paying out £35m in rates currently, we are talking about very large numbers indeed," Mr Rigby said.

Expressed as a proportion of industry gross profits, rates have increased from about 9.7 per cent in 1973 to about 33.5 per cent now, on CBI calculations. This is because rates increases have been greater than inflation over the past year while company profits have slumped.

One retailer member of the CBI Council said that rates were now such an important overhead charge at about 3 per cent of sales value, that the effect was starting to be felt in high street prices. The alternative was squeezed margins and closed premises.

Mr Rigby said that if all local councils followed the Government's spending guidelines, the average increases in the rate poundage would be very small indeed—about 0.2 per cent.

Twenty-four out of 39 shire counties which benefited from the change the block grant system were expecting to levy average increases of 9 per cent government guidelines whereas if they followed the government guidelines decreases could have been expected.

"We are deeply worried by forecasts of increases of more than 50 per cent in some areas."

Merseyside work plan

Merseyside County Council is seeking approval to establish its own company, Merseyside Limited, the first project of its kind in the United Kingdom to aid the growing number of unemployed teenagers in the region.

Birmid profits slide

Birmid Quilcast, the country's largest independent foundry group with interests in central heating and lawnmowers, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £6.4m to £2.25m. Sales fell from £216m to £210m in the year to October 31 and the final dividend has been passed.

Textile earnings drop

United Kingdom wool textile export earnings last year were £97.8m, a fall of £1.1m on 1979. The National Wool Textile Export Corporation said that out for the high sterling exchange rate, exports would have been considerably larger particularly in the Far East and North America.

Car jobs warning

Mr Robert Jackson, Member of the European Parliament for Upper Thames, told Japanese government ministers in Tokyo that a 1 per cent increase in the market share for Japanese cars cost at least 30,000 jobs in European motor manufacturing.

Limabw mine

Wankie Colliery, part of the Anglo American group, is to develop a new coal mine at Wankie in Zimbabwe. The mine will produce 3.9 million tonnes of coal a year and cost £25.12m.

Builders' supplies

Merchant builders' sales fell 18 per cent in December in comparison to December 1979, but the sales were an improvement on the previous month's slump which showed trading to be down by nearly 24 per cent.

Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 947.10, up 42 on Wall Street yesterday. The S&P 500 exchange rate was 256.58 while the £-SDR rate was 0.339661.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Ind 15p to 278p Broken Hill 10p to 680p Asiatic 35p to 85p Midway 14p to 85p Electrolux "B" 25p to 87.5p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPC 21p to 131p French T 5p to 125p Asmo 7p to 63p Widdie Wits 10p to 66p Tatt F Eng 5p to 110p

£2m advertising campaign to promote 800 cheaper fast selling lines

Woolworth sets scene for more price cutting

The high street discounting "war" looks set to reach a new pitch as the result of a meeting, hosted by Woolworth, which participating suppliers agreed to cut prices by half the cost. This time, the suppliers, stockbrokers and media people to hear about a year-long price-cutting campaign.

And though Woolworth executives played down suggestions that its "Operation Crackdown", starting tomorrow, will not have the same impact as when Tesco switched to a discounting policy after dropping trading stamps, with 1,000 stores and 15 million customers weekly, Woolworth is bound to stimulate fresh moves from competitors.

The 1,000 suppliers were warned yesterday by Mr David Collier, director of sales and advertising, that Woolworth buyers would expect manufacturers to share the discount cost. Woolworth expects their cooperation in return for extra production.

The other "carrot" is that the £2m cost of the television and advertising campaign for Woolworth Participating Suppliers usually cover about half the cost. This time, the suppliers' share will be just over 30 per cent.

The price cuts in the first three months will be on lines in Woolworth and Woolco stores, mainly on fast-sellers and covering goods like confectionery, cosmetics, furniture, fashion, lighting, lawnmowers, toys and kids. The cuts range from less than 10 per cent to nearly 50 per cent.

The company is being coy about the extent of discounting related to turnover, but there is some indication of the impact from the number of lines held in Woolworth stores, about 12,000 in the average store but probably double that in the largest. Around 2,000 lines are already heavily discounted.

Mr Geoffrey Rodgers, Woolworth's chairman, said: "We have already cut our costs to

aggressive price-cutting campaign."

Woolworth is beefing up its marketing campaign early instead of relying too much on the final quarter of the year, when the company traditionally does well in the run-up to Christmas.

Its results collapsed in the second quarter of last year and recovered in the third. December saw sales up 12.5 per cent against an estimated inflation in their goods sector of about 9 per cent. There was real growth of 3 per cent or more, according to Mr Collier.

The Woolworth management still feels there is some room for the discounting operation to be extended to more lines.

There must be a limit, nevertheless. In the nine months to October the company's pre-tax profits fell to £7.1m from £23.2m, with sales only marginally up in value.

"So we have grasped the nettle by going for a very, very

Mr Geoffrey Rodgers: grasping the nettle.

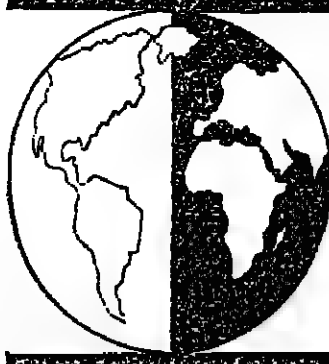
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"So we have grasped the nettle by going for a very, very

DAEJIAN HOLDINGS LIMITED		
INTERIM STATEMENT		
Unaudited Results for the Half Year ended 30th September, 1980		
	6 months to 30.9.80 £'000	6 months to 30.9.79 £'000
Rental Income and Charges		
Receivable, less Property Outgoings	2,834	2,468
Surplus on Sales of Properties	2,480	3,279
Other Income	71	146
	5,385	5,893
Financing Charges and Other Expenses	3,440	2,963
Group Profit before Taxation	1,945	2,930
Less Taxation	750	1,050
Less Minority Interests	9	8
	£1,186	£1,872
Earnings per share	7.28p	11.49p

Included in Rental Income is an amount of £366,000 relating to the previous financial year in respect of a retrospective rent review agreed in the current year. An interim dividend of 1.225p per share (1979-1.225p) will be paid on 20th March, 1981, to shareholders registered on 20th February, 1981.

Subject to unforeseen circumstances, it is expected that profits before tax for the year to 31st March, 1981, will be in the region of £3.5 million.



Pilkington in £31m deal with Taiwan

Pilkington Brothers of Britain have entered a joint venture with Taiwan Float Glass Industry Corporation, for the establishment of a \$70m (about £31m) plant near Taichung.

Pilkington will provide 25 per cent of the investment capital while the remaining 75 per cent will come from its Taiwanese partner, a spokesman said.

The plant, once completed in December 1982, will have the capacity to produce 100,000 tonnes of float glass for sale in Taiwan and South-East Asia.

Pilkington will also provide production equipment.

Anti-dumping duty

The European Commission has imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty of 4 per cent on United States-produced styrene monomer. It fell far short of the dumping margin of 26 per cent claimed last summer by industry.

Tokyo car talks

Nissan Motor Company seeks agreement with Volkswagen by June on the number of Volkswagen cars to be produced and sold in Japan. Meanwhile, executives of the Toyota Motor Company and Spain's Instituto Nacional de Industria have failed to reach agreement on ways to rescue Seat, the Spanish car company.

EEC output rise

The European Commission said the Community's industrial output rose in October and November last year, apparently ending the months-long decline. But it foresaw continuing high unemployment and inflation.

Turkey seeks aid

Mr Turgut Ozal, Turkey's deputy prime minister is holding talks in Washington with officials of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Reagan Administration about prospects for official economic aid of around \$2,000m (£855m) from the United States and the international agencies.

Norway oil boost

Thanks to increased oil and gas activity, Norway's available real income increased by almost 20 per cent during 1979 and 1980 and last year helped the country to turn a 1979 balance of payment deficit of \$954m (£422m) into a \$862m (£381m) surplus.

Hongkong loan

A group of property developers in Hongkong has raised a HK\$1,500m (about £124m) property loan from five banks. The loan equals the record Hongkong dollar credit.

Capital investment

The Italian Government intends to provide 3,000,000m lira (about £417m) in low interest loans over the next five years for capital investment in the chemicals industry. A further 3,000,000m lire will be made available for research.

£50 mini-picture and radio will create about 1,000 jobs in Dundee

Flat-screen television launched

Mr Clive Sinclair, the 40-year-old originator of the matchbox radio, the truly pocketable micro-television set and the £100 microcomputer, is about to around the world once more with an ingenious product.

Yesterday in London Mr Sinclair unveiled his new flat-screen television tube and a mock-up version of the miniature set that will use it. The tubes and the sets are to be built under contract and in volume by Timex in Dundee, creating about 1,000 jobs by 1985.

In the first phase of the project, costing about £1.25m, 250 jobs will be created and a production capacity of one million tubes a year will be established. Sometime next year the resulting "pocket Micro-vision television with FM radio" should appear on the market at about £50.

Research and development over the past five years, leading to the flat-screen set, has cost more than £1m, of which about half came from the National Research Development Corporation.

In return for NRDC support, Sinclair will pay a royalty on each set sold; details of the deal have not been made known but it is likely that the corporation would cover its £500,000 investment in two years' production at the rate quoted yesterday.

Research and development has involved not only the design and technical aspects of the flat-screen cathode ray tube but also the highly automated production processes.

These have been tried out at Sinclair's pilot production plant at St Ives, Cambridge, where tubes have been produced at rates of up to 50 a day, and will be applied on a large scale by Timex.

The four-year programme to build up to full production of tubes and sets will cost £5m. The Scottish Economic Planning Department is providing £1.5m of this; there will be a regional development grant of £1.1m and the rest will come from Sinclair Research.

Sinclair Research will own all equipment and will fund its own contribution from the profits of its personal computer business. The NRDC licence is an exclu-



Mr Clive Sinclair with his flat-screen television.

sive one, and the company will achieve total ownership of the tube technology after certain payments have been made. There will be no equity participation by external investors.

The flat-screen technology shows typical Sinclair ingenuity in packing more (in terms of performance) into less (in terms of size, weight and power consumption). By "flat" is meant three-quarters of an inch thick; the viewing surface measures four inches by two inches.

This could be scaled up to give larger-size screens for future products, Mr Sinclair indicated yesterday, and the preferred method for this would be by pro-

jection from small tubes. The joining of the company's computer and flat-screen technologies was highly likely.

Compared with a conventional cathode-ray tube with the same size of screen, the present Sinclair unit is claimed to be three times as bright, half the volume, and is claimed to use between one-quarter and one-tenth the electrical power.

With further computer and television developments already in the pipeline, what will Mr Sinclair turn his talents to next? Something to do with electric vehicles, we are led to believe.

Kenneth Owen

Honda seeks more BL cooperation

By Our Midland Industrial Correspondent

Honda of Japan is so pleased with the progress of the Acclaim, the joint venture with BL, that it is pressing the British group to extend cooperation to other Honda models for sale in the United Kingdom and Europe.

Honda executives who have visited BL's Cowley plant, have been so impressed with the speed and quality of the work being carried out there on the Acclaim that they no longer fear that inferior British quality will damage their reputation.

Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, president of Honda, said: "With increased reliability established between the two companies we will soon proceed to the second step of cooperation."

This included plans to broaden the variants of the present model and also to make further models in Britain under licence. He hoped an agreement would be reached soon.

Talks have been under way for some months to extend the present deal for one four-door, 1.3 litre model to include more variants of the Acclaim.

It is understood that BL is reluctant to commit itself until the Acclaim is actually in production to its satisfaction and has had a chance to test market reaction. Volume production is due to begin in June with a target of around 80,000 cars in the first full year.

The possibility of extending the cooperation still further to include Honda models now being developed is likely to cause more difficulties.

W Midlands becoming 'industrial wilderness', unions claim

By Clifford Webb

Union leaders are so concerned about the economic decline of the West Midlands, once known proudly as "The workshop of the world", that they want urgent action by the Government and the European Economic Community to prevent it becoming an industrial wilderness.

A campaign calling for a new regional policy backed by financial assistance was opened yesterday in Birmingham by the regional council of the Trades Union Congress.

Last year the number unemployed in the West Midlands rose by 82.4 per cent, making it by far the worst region in the country. The national average was 52.6 per cent.

A 120-page discussion paper outlining the problems and recommended solutions will be debated today by a special conference of senior West Midlands union officials.

It says: "There is now hardly a single sector of manu-

facturing in the region that is not inferior to some foreign country and that has not been replaced by some other source. Old industries are being allowed to die or are being destroyed.

"In the new technology industries, development is not taking place on a level with our major competitors. From sewing machines to machine tools, from combine harvesters to television sets we are being outclassed, outproduced and out-sold."

The paper complains that while successive Governments, assisted more depressed areas, there was a presumption within the Treasury in particular that the West Midlands, with 100 years of prosperity behind it, would remain a rich parent to its poorer neighbours and needed little attention.

The decline in vehicle production has a disproportionate impact on the region, where it is estimated that one worker in six is dependent on the fortunes of BL. As a result of

that company's loss of markets, 47,000 jobs went between 1965 and 1977.

The engineering industry, which employed 700,000 in the region in 1965, lost 128,000 jobs over the following 12 years—44,000 more than expected on the basis of national trends.

Employment in vehicles is expected to decline by a further 60,000 over the next five years.

Until last spring, management appear to be adopting their traditional tactic in the face of falling markets—jettisoning semi-skilled workers while hanging on to skilled men to await the upturn.

But from May even skilled workers were being made redundant with Lucas Industries firing the first major shock.

The paper claims that its research had access to confidential management papers prepared by Lucas stating that in its opinion "the situation is all but lost for the British motor industry".

Equipment leasing growth rate slows

By Roman Eisenstein

Companies who are members of the Equipment Leasing Association, last year bought £2,359m worth of equipment for leasing to their clients, a 31 per cent increase on 1979. When adjusted for inflation, the rise in real terms is a respectable 14 per cent.

At the end of last year, ELA members' owned equipment, which originally cost £6,891m, compared with £5,030m in 1979.

From small beginnings, leasing has expanded so fast that it now accounts for 12.4 per cent of all new capital investment in plant and equipment in Britain. But, while growth has been fast over the past five years, it seems to be tapering off. Assets acquired by leasing companies in 1979 grew by nearly 50 per cent and by nearly 80 per cent in 1978.

While the market expanded in most sectors the sharpest

rise was in leasing equipment to industry. Plant and machinery acquired during the year by leasing companies for their clients doubled from £415m to £830m. Manufacturers and other industrial customers took on assets worth £363m, a 17 per cent increase. There was also a 41 per cent rise in new business.

The amount of assets leased by central and local government more than doubled from £96m to £201m.

GDP likely to be 2pc lower than in 1980

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent

The economy may pick up in the second quarter of this year, but the recovery will be so small and from such a low base that gross domestic product for the year as a whole is likely to be 2 per cent lower than in 1980, according to a report today.

World Outlook 1981, published by the Economist Intelligence Unit also suggests a sharp fall in United Kingdom exports, particularly in the first half of the year, and the possibility of rising inflation towards the year end.

Over the year as a whole there is likely to be a 4.4 per cent fall in the export volume, although there may be some improvement later in the year as the world economy starts to pick up.

This recovery is one factor leading the forecasters to take a cautious view of British inflation and they expect some upturn in commodity prices.

With exports falling and total investment expected to decline by a further 4.6 per cent, the forecasters look to a rise of only 0.2 per cent in consumer spending and a slowdown in despoiling to keep the economy moving.

The rise in consumer spending is expected to reflect a small fall in the savings ratio as inflation abates. Real disposable incomes are expected to fall by 1 per cent.

The forecast for unemployment is gloomy, given the falling number of jobs and the rise in the potential workforce. An upturn in the inflation rate later in the year could force the government to reconsider incomes controls and it may have to take action soon on imports or competitiveness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Calculating the fall in the inflation rate

From Mr E. W. C. Symes

Sir, The news item in *The Times* today (February 14) referring to the fall in the inflation rate, highlights the general misconception on this matter in the public mind. While it has been accepted for some time that the movement of prices over the preceding twelve months shall be regarded as the current rate of inflation—(your headline "Prices show annual rise of 13 per cent")—if the previous six months is considered instead of twelve, as you point out in the following paragraph, the figure is only 7.5 per cent per annum. Moreover, this has been the rate on average throughout the six month period and appears unlikely to be exceeded in the next six months.

At a time when the rate of inflation is falling, as at present, there seems to be no sense in calculating it on a period as long as twelve months in arrears, when the figure is swollen by the inclusion of, for example, the first half of last year when it reached a peak of 22 per cent. There can be no doubt that the general acceptance of some such figure as 13 per cent as the "current rate of inflation" contributes largely to wage claims of the order of 15 per cent—which incidentally will apply to the next twelve months—being thought necessary to maintain the standard of living.

Yours faithfully,

E. W. C. SYMES,
Culmore,
Kingston Deverill,
Wiltshire,
February 14.

Government's pursuit of its policies

From Mr Derek Gaultier

Sir, Your interview with Mr Michael Heseltine (February 11) reminded me of a line I have long suspected, namely that the Government is no more resolute in pursuit of the policies upon which it is elected than were its predecessors.

Of course capital investment cuts are "quicker and easier"—because they transfer the burden of making people redundant from the public to the private sector. But that in no way makes them either right or desirable in the long term interests of the country. Nor does it square easily with the oft-repeated assertions during the election campaign and when the Government first came to office that it intended to transfer resources from the public to the private sector.

The plain fact is that this Government, as so many of its predecessors have done, is relying on the "soft option" of taking but three instances—the fall of inflation proof pensions, with the result that in November 1979 £200m, and last November £20m, of public money went into the bottomless pit (equivalent together to about one-eighth of the current total civil engineering programme); in the public sector there is still only one redundant machinery contractor, Cowdrey House, 6 Portugal Street, London, WC2A 2HH, February 17.

Yours faithfully,

DEREK GAULTIER,
Director General,
The Federation of Civil
Engineering Contractors,
Cowdrey House,
6 Portugal Street,
London, WC2A 2HH,
February 17.

Conservation of energy

From Mr Ian Munro

Sir, The idea of a national agency for energy conservation (as reported by your Science Editor, February 10) may be a good idea, but it is a pity that the many individuals and organizations who have long been campaigning for a serious national commitment towards a more efficient use of the nation's primary energy resources, have not been able to secure the necessary support from the Government. Building regulations in this country call for insulation standards only half those operative in continental countries of comparable climate. In a paper published over two years ago my association proposed much higher standards for walls, floors, roofs, walls and floors) on the basis of economic necessity and 3 per cent per annum real increase in fuel costs. Although in the meantime these costs have accelerated ever upwards, and no official body has refused the logic of the recommendations, there has been virtually no action.

The Department of Energy, if given the chance, is eminently capable of action which will profoundly affect for the good the energy future of the country. Yours faithfully,

IAN MUNRO,
Director-General,
Eurosol-UK,
64 Wilton Road,
London, SW1V 1DE,
February 12.

Investment in electrification

From Mr Stanley F. Steward

Sir, The financial justification for main line electrification has now been established by the final report of the joint steering group. Here is an investment opportunity in the public sector which is indisputably self-financing and profitable and which, as Professor Bainbridge says (February 10) will remove the dependence on oil. Financial restraints should not be allowed to delay the

authorization of this programme as, before it can be completed, oil will be prohibitively expensive and it will be impossible where it can be substituted. We cannot afford to leave our main transportation system at this risk and, fortunately, electricity produced by nuclear fuels and coal provides the ideal answer.

STANLEY F. STEWARD,
The Automobile Association,
Pall Mall,
London, SW1V 5ER.

Warning for computer users

From Mr D. A. Eytions

Sir, The dissatisfaction with computers, experienced by American small businesses reported by Margaret Coffey (February 16) is being shared by many small businesses in the United Kingdom. The low cost of microelectronics is resulting in cheap computers being installed for the first time in very small businesses in large numbers. From the many pleas for assistance addressed to the Computing Services Association, it is obvious that a substantial proportion of these small business users are finding that the computer manufacturers' claims are not being realized because of inadequacies in the accompanying systems and programs (software).

The problem is not that the computer hardware fails to perform to its guaranteed specification but that the total system, including software, fails to produce the results which are required to run the business. The inexperienced first-time user does not appreciate that the hardware is cheap and that good software can be very expensive. If the programs are specially written to meet the requirements of a particular business, then the expense can easily exceed the cost of the

hardware. If the software is mass-produced to sell to a large number of identical businesses at a low cost, it very often fails to meet individual special requirements and is not able to produce the same output as the old manual system.

These factors have been well understood by the large computer users for many years, but the lesson still needs to be learnt by this latest wave of small business users. Any businessman intending to install his first computer should concentrate on specifying the output that he requires from the overall computing system in order to run his business properly. He should also have a clear statement of the data currently available for input to the computing system and he should not be distracted by the irrelevant jargon of megabytes and nanoseconds. Modern microcomputers and microprograms offer impressive raw computing power at prices which are becoming cheaper and cheaper, but good computing systems are still more difficult and costly to implement than most salesmen will indicate.

Businessmen who would be well advised to discount some of the claims made by computer manufacturers and their distributors in order to pay more

Pension rights delay

From Mr Ian Liddington

Sir, Even if (David Green, Letters, February 12) for pension purposes the third nation (the self-employed) can be shown to be disadvantaged compared with the privately employed and "the group at present privileged to enjoy index-linked pensions", it would do well, as would nations one and two, to reflect on the unhappy position of the fourth nation, eg. employees of small businesses, for whom comparable full pension rights will not be available until 1998.

In this field at least the yo-yo effect of the two-party system has much to answer for. The quite sensible scheme developed by the Macmillan government in the early 50s was jettisoned by the Wilson administration of 1964. Crossman's excellent scheme sank without trace when the Conservatives took office under Edward Heath in 1970. It was only after Labour had taken office in 1974 that both the major parties agreed on a bipartisan approach which enabled the Social Security Pension Act of 1975 to reach the statute book so rapidly.

What a waste of time and effort! What a cost in terms of the welfare of the fourth nation.

Pensions? Industrial relations? Can we really afford a two-party system any more? IAN LIDDINGTON,
36 Reigate Hill,
Reigate,
Surrey, RH2 9NG.

Solutions for steel

From Mr J. F. Safford

Sir, Mr Michael Grylls (February 17) draws attention to the dilemmas facing the Government over the rationalization of the British steel industry, public and private. The first objective must be the creation of an internationally competitive and efficient steel industry; the second is the maintenance wherever possible of at least two alternative sources of supply in the United Kingdom. The absence of such domestic competition would lead many users to increase the proportion of their supplies bought overseas.

What must above all be avoided is solutions which are politically convenient in the short term, but industrially damaging for a generation. We are still suffering the effects of a political decision of the 1930s to have two sub-optimal steel plants in Scotland and South Wales.

J. F. SAFFORD,
Director,
British Iron and Steel
Consumers' Council,
16 Berwyn Road,
Richmond, Surrey, TW10 5ES.

Currency change

From Mr Aidan Ellis

Sir, I have recently returned from France and have a 100 franc note left. I went into a local branch of the National Westminster to exchange it for sterling. The girl behind the counter asked me for my passport and I told her it was not necessary as exchange control was abolished almost two years ago. After a 5-10 minute delay she came back and asked for my name and address. I refused to give it and, quite sensibly, the manager asked me for my passport and I told her it was not necessary as exchange control was abolished almost two years ago. After a 5-10 minute delay she came back and asked for my name and address. I refused to give it and, quite sensibly, the manager asked me for my passport and I told her it was not necessary as exchange control was abolished almost two years ago. After a 5-10 minute delay she came back and asked for my name and address. I refused to give it and, quite sensibly, the manager asked me for my passport and I told her it was not necessary as exchange control was abolished almost two years ago.

I went to Aspreys and asked the man who served me would he accept a 100 franc note in payment and he said "Yes, cash is cash and ready as ready is."

Has anybody else encountered this strange sequence of events where banks do not want to handle cash? I stormed out, I then rang Lloyds Bank who, although sympathetic, went through the same rigmarole. The manager at that branch gave me the impression that asking for a name and address was a waste of time but had not queried the system.

I want to Aspreys and asked the man who served me would he accept a 100 franc note in payment and he said "Yes, cash is cash and ready as ready is."

AIDAN ELLIS,
Director,
Aidan Ellis Publishing,
Cobb House,
Nuffield,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxon, RG9 5RU.

SECURICOR

PROFIT UP 14½% TO £79m: Comment by Peter Smith, Chairman

From a turnover of £174m, pre-tax profit of Securicor Group showed a 14½% increase to £7.9m. Security Services contributing £6.2m. Our international division, operating through 16 separate companies, showed the largest percentage improvement in profitability. Good contributions to profit were again made by the finance, investment, insurance, property, hotels and vehicle divisions.

Against a background of continuing recession and highly competitive conditions, profit from industrial security and movement of parcels in the UK again showed an improvement and we were able to absorb remaining development costs in relation to the new freight service. The fall in the cost of insurance consequent upon a drop in the frequency of criminal attacks on our cash transport operations continued.

	SECURICOR GROUP LTD.		SECURITY SERVICES LTD.	
	Results for year ended September 26, 1980			
	1980	1979	1980	1979
	£000	£000	£000	£000
TURNOVER—UK	156,793	126,437	146,372	119,435
—Overseas	17,732	15,574	17,732	15,574
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	174,525	142,111	164,104	135,109
Industrial security & parcels services				
—UK	3,964	3,624	3,964	3,624
—Overseas	1,296	978	1,296	978
Finance, investments & insurance	2,092	1,623	965	759
Property, hotels & vehicle division	588	705	—	—
Tax	7,940	6,930	6,225	5,361
	1,527	1,331	1,284	934
NET PROFIT AFTER TAX	6,413	5,599	4,941	4,427
Due to outside shareholders	2,373	2,121	4	—
	4,040	3,478	4,937	4,427
EARNINGS PER SHARE	15.8p	13.6p	14.4p	13.0p
Final Ordinary dividend (proposed)	1.11p	1.02p	1.80p	1.65p
Interim Ordinary dividend (paid)	0.5p	0.45p	0.91p	0.62p

مكتبة من الأصل

Pension rights deal

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Dalgety reaps takeover benefits

Dalgety's balance sheet may still bear the scars of the £70m takeover and subsequent integration of Spillers but at least the acquisition is beginning to justify itself in profit terms. Interim results from Dalgety show pretax profits up just £500,000 at £16.2m and, although reorganization fudges the Spillers contribution, it is clear that without it trading figures would have fallen.

Most significant impact has come in milling which has increased its contribution four-fold to £4.4m, aided by good grain harvests, price increases and increased demand. But the foods division has also been boosted £3.5m to £8m helped by improvements in pet foods and a return to profit in the United States Modern Maid subsidiary, whose previous drag on Spillers provided the opportunity for the Dalgety bid. Meanwhile, Dalgety's traditional activities have fared worse with malting profits halved to £2.1m and agricultural returns slipping £1m to £10.8m, and the chemicals activities suffering badly.

Outside milling, economic conditions do not hold out much for a significant recovery this time. But Dalgety is sufficiently confident about the traditionally stronger second half to maintain the dividend at 15.7p gross where it is not covered by historic earnings. This was good enough for

in the profitable Portlinton heating division and the home and garden equipment side which together raised trading profits by 56 per cent to £5.8m last year and must be worth more than the group taken as a whole.

But whether Birmid makes profits this year—and it will not in the first half—depends on foundries. Iron casting capacity has been halved since 1977 but there is still spare capacity and without some recovery in demand further cutbacks may be necessary. The difficulty of predicting, and indeed the depth of, the recession, are best illustrated by the fact that a year ago Birmid was honestly expecting a year of consolidation in foundries after extensive rationalization. In the event, the foundries slipped from a £5.1m trading profit to losses of £1.4m. So unless there are firm signs of a pick-up in demand the shares will stay friendless at 21½p.

BOC International Anxious moments

BOC has made a strong start to the year with first-quarter pretax profits 18 per cent ahead at £14.6m well up to expectations. But the group now seems to be taking a distinctly less sanguine view of the rest of the year than the substantial improvement envisaged in the annual report and profits will do well to get back to 1979's £72.7m.

There has been an all-round improvement in the opening three months with South Africa and Australia living up to their great potential. The Alcoa business in the United States has also been buoyant with trading profits just over a tenth higher at £8.9m as gases, welding and medical have all done better. Offsetting a strike-bound graphite side. In the United Kingdom rationalization and other cost reductions have helped protect margins in industrial gases against some volume declines.

But the group is now worrying about the patchy recovery of the United States economy with much of its earlier strength evaporating at the end of December and there could be further redundancy costs during the year at home. Still, despite the rise in interest charges, there have been no major changes in the balance sheet and though it is flattered by BOC's replacement cost accounting methods, gearing is comfortable enough to discount worries about a tight issue.

Up 2p to 120p on the results, the shares are back to their 1980-81 "high" and their new-found popularity owes much to the market's appreciation of the strong current cost dividend cover—GCA profits are actually slightly higher than BOC's modified historical figures—and now that the extra depreciation charges as assets are revalued onto a replacement cost basis are a thing of the past the benefits of this conservative accounting will show through at the bottom line.

● Woolworth's price-cutting programme sent shudders through the whole retail sector yesterday, but first impressions are that the market could still be taking the news too complacently in the light of the damage Tesco wreaked in the food retailing business three years ago.

Besides the scale of the cuts, the most important point is that Woolworth's about 1,000 stores covering just about every shopping centre of consequence, which means that few non-food shops will avoid the impact and that retailers in general face a tough 1981. It will be even tougher if Woolworth is allowed to grab a growing share of a stagnant market.

Boots, British Home Stores, Asda and Tesco could be the main victims. The last two have problems in non-food lines already. Tesco, incidentally, launched "Operation Checkout" in June, 1977, and that proved to be the time to sell supermarket shares, with an attempted rally scotched a few months later when Sainsbury counter attacked with its own discounts.

Investors are then, likely to remain wary of Woolworth's "Operation Crack Down," despite the optimistic noises it made at yesterday's press conference about Christmas trade, and with the sector as a whole still yielding under 5 per cent and selling at 11 times earnings, prices look set to fall further across the board.

Economic notebook

The Deutsche mark under pressure

That the influential German Institute for Economic Research—DIW—has added its voice to those urging temporary withdrawal of the Deutsche mark from the European Monetary System, indicates the disquiet felt in West Germany about the country's short-term economic prospects. In fact, conditions would almost certainly have to get much worse before such a course of action could be contemplated by the Bonn government.

After all, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, with President Giscard d'Estaing of France, is moving spirit behind the formation of the EMS in 1979. Indeed, in the eyes of many people, the EMS and the similar (if less sophisticated) arrangements that preceded it, looked like little more than the formalization of what, was, in fact, the wider mark zone.

A European Monetary System without the mark would be like playing chess without any kings. The case for the mark's withdrawal from the EMS is that this would permit German interest rates to be cut and thereby contain the recession and the unemployment.

According to the German Institute for Economic Research, the policy of keeping interest rates high in order to bolster the mark has not done much to prevent imported inflation anyway.

Certainly, the outlook for German business is worse now than was predicted a few months back. Industrial production has been declining since the second quarter of 1980 and economic growth in 1980 was much less than half that for 1979 (about 1.8 per cent compared with 4.6 per cent). In 1981, gross national product is forecast by Phillips and Drew to decline by some 0.5 per cent. Inflation also worsened last year reaching 5.6 per cent compared with only 4 per cent in 1979.

In addition the current account deficit has soared. It may prove to have been not much more than a temporary phenomenon of 1980-81 (£5.750m) in 1980—or nearly twice the original forecast—whereas, until 1978, the country had been piling up ever larger surpluses. Another sizable deficit is expected this year.

The large deficit has not, however, been matched with equally by the German authorities.

Claw back

This has not prevented the mark becoming one of the most resilient currencies in recent months. At the beginning of this week it stood at its lowest level against the dollar for well over three years having become weak as much as a quarter less against the American currency when it was in the autumn of 1979 when it was then the dollar that was under severe pressure.

Over the same period, the mark also dropped about 5 per cent against a basket of currencies. Within the European Monetary System, it has fallen to its lowest permitted level, at the opposite extreme to the French franc, which has been at its highest permitted level.

Only in the last 48 hours has the American currency clawed back some of its large losses.

None of the prevailing theories adequately explain, in any case, just why the mark has been simultaneously weak against the dollar, sterling and the French franc. If the level of exchange rates were essentially determined by differences in nations' inflation levels, as used to be widely thought, then the mark would have been extremely strong in past months rather than weak.

The increase in German prices last year was on average rather less than half that for other industrial countries. French and American inflation levels were both above the average. Britain's was higher still.

But what is also true is that

Germany has had rather lower interest rates than those other countries. This, though, has historically been the case. Interest rate differentials are, to some extent, a reflection of differences in inflation rates between countries. High inflation in any country increases the risk that its currency will depreciate against others. High interest rates are, therefore, often necessary to prevent large sums of money going abroad.

However, interest rates in America have also been driven up by domestic monetary policies, which have in Britain, with the result that the differential between interest rates in New York and Frankfurt is now so large that it is viewed as more than adequate to cover any risk of dollar depreciation.

Deficit

Such an explanation would not account for the weakness of the mark against the French franc. The interest rate differential between Paris and Frankfurt has been rather less recently than on many past occasions. Neither is the fact that Germany has a large current account deficit enough in itself to explain recent exchange rate movements.

Another theory suggests that it is the relative tightness or laxity of monetary policy in different countries that determines how their currencies move.

Monetary policy has been tight in most countries. In Germany, France and the United States, money supply has grown by less than the increase in their respective money national incomes.

Among the big industrial countries, Britain had one of the least restrictive monetary policies (if the growth in money supply is compared with that elsewhere after allowing for respective increases in money national incomes). Yet, sterling has also been one of the stronger currencies.

All of this does, of course, leave out the question of energy and other "confidence" factors like political stability. Germany is thought to be particularly vulnerable to these factors, and further increase in the oil price or disruption of energy supplies. The anti-nuclear energy lobby in Germany have prevented a rapid expansion of nuclear generating capacity. The upheaval in Poland is also seen as a threat to future gas supplies from Siberia.

The sensitive geographical position of Germany means that it is, anyway, the source of concern when there is trouble in Eastern Europe. Today, there is added disquiet about what is thought to be the governing coalition's lack of political will.

By contrast, France has established close relations with the Arab countries and successfully negotiated a number of trade and energy deals with them.

For America, it is clear that the "Reagan Factor" is tending to work like the "Thatcher Factor" in generating confidence in these countries' economic policies. The currency markets like promises of financial discipline and cuts in government spending and borrowing. This, together with high interest rates and current account surpluses, probably accounts for much of the recent strength of the dollar and sterling.

But, if Congress prevents many of the spending cuts from going through and federal borrowing continues to rise, as seems likely, there may not be a level of interest rates—no matter how high—that will prevent the dollar reversing all the gains of 1980.

Melvyn Westlake

Why 'grannies' may get younger after the Budget

Personal savings must play a bigger role in meeting the public sector borrowing requirement. Margaret Stone reports

As the countdown to the Budget begins in earnest, the debate about the funding potential of National Savings is becoming more intense. The Government, which is making efforts to take the pressure off the gilt market, has already made it an article of faith that the personal savings sector should play an increasing role in meeting the public sector borrowing requirement.

The questions are to what extent can the Government mobilize the savings of the man in the street and what is the price it will have to pay? Central to these forward-looking questions is the historical one: how successful has the Government's National Savings package announced last autumn been?

In September significant improvements were made in the Department of National Savings' repertoire of index-linked savings schemes. A new issue of grannys bonds, the index-linked National Savings certificates, was announced with both a new maximum investment of £3,000 (against £1,200 for the earlier edition) and a minimum age limit of 60 for both men and women. And the index-linked Save-As-You-Earn scheme maximum monthly investment was now set to rise from £20 to £50.

Flanking the new grannys bonds were the extensions in the upper limits for both the conventional nineteenth issue of National Savings certificates from £1,500 to £5,000 and the grannys bonds, which have suffered from the declining inflation rate, the absence of a bonus and neutral, if not adverse comment from the press.

This is almost certainly bound to force the Chancellor's hand in the Budget if he is to be able to put their interests before those of the Treasury.

For declining interest rates will not only strip out some of the inflationary benefits of grannys bonds but must also reduce the impact of both the Investment Account (Invac) of the National Savings Bank and the nineteenth issue of savings certificates.

At the moment the Government is paying well over the odds for this money. The Invac account pays 15 per cent gross and the nineteenth issue 14.7 per cent compared with 11.5 per cent for clearing bank deposits and 13.25 per cent on a building society share account.

In "normal" conditions, the Invac rate would have been reduced by now and the nineteenth issue withdrawn. It seems unlikely that these present returns will survive another cut in minimum lending rate. With more market-related yields, the pulling power of both the National Savings Bank and the next issue of conventional savings certificates will probably wane.

This in turn will tighten the screws further. Of the £1,200m net addition to National Savings at the end of December, 1980, no less than £595m represented accrued interest (£233m from the Investment Account). So, once interest rates are cut, there will be shortfall here too for the Government to make up. Although the cumulative effect of the new £50 a month

with its tax free return equivalent to 10.3 per cent net or 14.7 per cent gross to basic rate taxpayers, which is pulling ahead. After attracting £120m in the first week they became available, grannys bond sales are now settling down to around £40m a week—the conventional nineteenth issue is edging up to £45m a week.

The overall success of National Savings in recent months does not totally disguise some disappointment with some grannys bonds, which have suffered from the declining inflation rate, the absence of a bonus and neutral, if not adverse comment from the press.

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Although the cumulative effect of the new £50 a month

ceiling for SAYE schemes, which begins in April, will be substantial, its initial impact will not be great. Nor are premium bonds packing the same punch as they once did. Without a big new prize to draw in, punters' net sales of premium bonds are expected to tumble forward around the current rate of £41m a year.

There is no secret what the answer to the National Savings puzzle will be. The Treasury has already hinted that it will consider bringing down the age limit for grannys bonds. But will it be 55 or 50 years of age?

Whichever, this relaxation in the age limit for grannys bonds within the reach of men and women in the Indian summer of their professional lives is likely to have a much more significant impact on savers than last autumn's changes.

Taxpayers, many of them in the higher brackets, will be able to inflation-proof up to £6,000 of their joint savings in a tax-free investment which carries no charges or front-end loading (when total charges over the use of the savings scheme are all deducted at the outset). It is more likely to be a winner for them than for present savers who are conscious both of the five-year commitment (although it is not binding) and absence of income.

Pleas of discrimination, and unfair competition from the building societies in particular are likely to fall on deaf ears.

The Government apparently believes that building societies already cream off too much personal savings and is in no mood to put their interests before those of the Treasury.

On the other hand, building societies could be more vulnerable to grannys bonds for the 50 to 60 age group than they apparently are to the present scheme. Although net receipts dropped sharply to £285m in November (when the second issue went on sale), they have since recovered to £448m in December and £446m in January.

Although the main thrust of the Chancellor's Budget plans for National Savings is bound to be grannys bond changes, including possibly a clearer indication of whether a bonus will be paid at the end of five years, new developments should not be ruled out.

Part of that £3,000m extra money from National Savings could come from oil bonds. The talks between the Treasury and British National Oil Corporation about how the small saver can participate in the benefits of North Sea oil are not complete, but the bonds could be on sale in post offices before the end of the year.

Another candidate under review which might appear in the Budget is a National Savings interest-bearing security, a noticeable gap in the NS repertoire since the British Savings Bonds were axed a couple of years ago.

With or without these products, there does not seem too much doubt that National Savings will reach its desired target of £18,400m total savings by the end of March 1982. Grannys bonds may not be an outright winner at the moment, but it is a tap to be turned on at any time by subsequent alterations in the age and size limits.



Mr David Donne, chairman of Dalgety.

he market which lifted the shares 6p to 80p, where assuming a maintained final dividend of 11.2 per cent provides a sound case for holding on for better times.

Profits could work out close to £40m against £33.4m for the full year to provide fully-taxed p/e of over 10, while any significant fall in interest rates could relieve pressure from interest charges which rose 2.4p to £14.3m. Total debt still stands at £27m to represent four-fifths of shareholders funds but this is £18m below the previous interim level and Dalgety has made significant inroads into short-term borrowings which now stand at £97m compared with more than £123m at this time last year.

Irish Qualcast Cutbacks continue

Irish Qualcast's full-year figures provide vivid example of what happens to a company serving yesterday's industries, when decline is compounded by recession. With slumps down by nearly a third in the iron and steel industries, which are largely tied to automotive-related industries, Birmid has had to retrench further incurring £10.2m of extraordinary closure and redundancy provisions of which £6m will be cash out as opposed to book losses.

Before counting extraordinary and after stating the previous figures accordingly, retax profits fell from £6.4m to £225,000 for nearly tripled interest charges of 1.6m. After writing off £3.4m advance corporation tax, passing the final dividend including closure costs there was a £3.7m loss compared with retentions of £1,000.

Even before paying out most of the cash costs, net debt nearly doubled to most £25m. But Birmid went into the recession with a strong balance sheet and as a net worth of about £56m—before including an estimated £13m extra on property values—and there is still some cash to be released from asset sales and stock reductions. There is also consolation

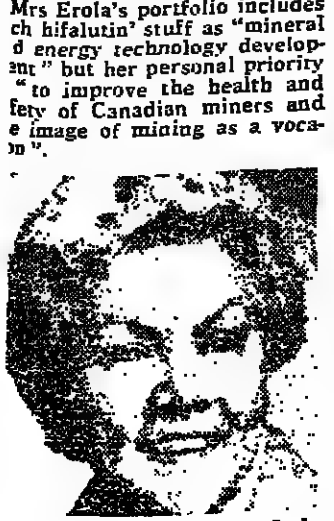
Business Diary: Punch-prop and Judy • Bandits aloft

avid Howell, the Energy Secretary, is no pin-up with Britain's miners at the moment: not so with his opposite number in Canada, who seems to have been chosen by Premier Pierre Trudeau just because she—yes, she—would fit along with the dominion's miners.

Judy Erola (below) is Canada's Minister of State for Mines, and her femininity and vacuity which make her a good ambassador to this vital Canadian industry are more important than her links with mining.

She comes of Finnish stock in Sudbury, northern Ontario, the world's most important nickel-smelting town, and both her grandfather and a husband once worked down a mine.

Mrs Erola's portfolio includes ch bifalutin' stuff as "mineral energy technology development" but her personal priority is to improve the health and safety of Canadian miners and a image of mining as a voca-



Canadian Mining Minister Judy Erola.

Having, like everybody else on this occasional publication, received my cards in the post, I was not too surprised to get a third lot yesterday.

This time, however, the cards came in a box rather than in an envelope, for they are a new version (top right) of my present calling card (bottom right).

The cards were sent as a surprise present by Peter R. Royle, a director of the London printers W. R. Royle.

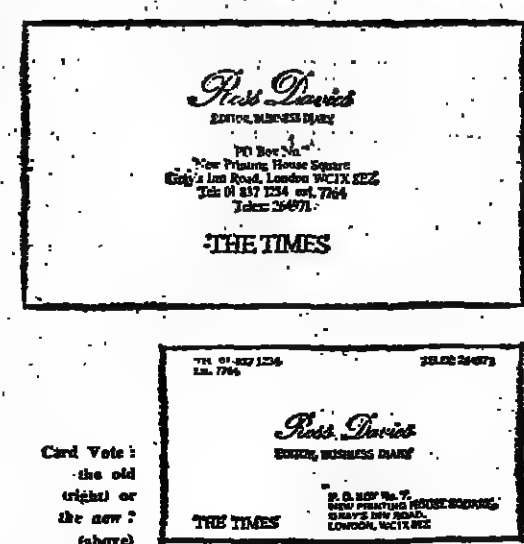
In an article I wrote last month Royle described my present card—the standard Times issue—as "terrible". So too, since that article, has reader R. F. Bond of Wolverhampton.

Too modest to send me his own card, Bond none the less described my present card as "an exposition in miniature of the Big Bang theory"—all items of essential information other than my name wanting to get as far away from me as possible.

Now I find that there have been half a dozen or more replacement Times cards designed and printed for me during the Thomson ownership of the paper nobody could decide which it was to be.

The silent machines will be battery-operated, and partitioned off from the passenger cabin in the rear of the economy-class seats. Initially they will be installed on the trans-Pacific routes but beware, they may spread later to the London route.

Max Cole, Singapore Airlines spokesman in London says: "We have the world exclusive rights to these machines and no other airline will be able to have them." So there is still hope yet that they may not spread.



● Curses, Singapore Airlines is to introduce seven one-armed bandits on its B-747s from this June if a two months in-flight survey "on the merits of in-flight entertainment" proves positive.

● The silent machines will be battery-operated, and partitioned off from the passenger cabin in the rear of the economy-class seats. Initially they will be installed on the trans-Pacific routes but beware, they may spread later to the London route.

● Max Cole, Singapore Airlines spokesman in London says: "We have the world exclusive rights to these machines and no other airline will be able to have them." So there is still hope yet that they may not spread.

● One of the bastions of middle class Belgian life is under attack. The recommended retail price for bread is being undercut by a third by GB, the country's biggest supermarket chain.

For years the bread price in Belgium has been sacrosanct. An impressive lobby of independent bakers, backed by the Ministry of the Middle Classes and the bulk of solid bourgeois opinion, has maintained the price at a hefty 34.50 francs or 43p for the standard 800 gramme loaf. As a result, thousands of small bakers have prospered in a country that has become a model for de-industrialization and rising unemployment.

But this idyll of petty bourgeois endeavour may now become a thing of the past. The independent bakers are already speaking of a bread price "war" while the supermarket chain is reporting that sales are rising every day with demand outstripping supply.

Sociologists think that GB's success with its low price bread is a clear indicator of the depth of the recession in Belgium. But the well heeled middle classes in Brussels are concerned that there could be a sharp drop in the number of cake shops in the capital.

Out of place: reader P. C. J. Nair writes from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to say that the remnants of the old Perak State adjoining signboards of a tailor and a drayman. The former said Wee Kian Fatt, and the latter Soh Kian Wee.

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Selective buying prolongs rally in equities

Selective buying helped equities to maintain their technical rally yesterday despite the escalation of the miners' strike.

Dealers remained optimistic that a solution could be found and were also encouraged by news that the talks with the Government had been brought forward. So, after a cautious start, prices pushed ahead on selective buying of second liners in a thin market. Sentiment was also helped by the first quarter figures from BOC International, at the upper end of most expectations, with the shares rising 2p to 120p, after 122p.

However, confidence took a knock when news that F. W. Woolworth was about to cut prices by up to 50 per cent in order to reduce stocks sent a shock wave through the stores sector. Dealers reported panic selling of most of the leading stores with Woolworth shares dipping 3p to 54p.

Business after hours recovered slightly, but investors adopted a cautious attitude ahead of President Reagan's first budget. Oil shares suffered a slight reaction after a firm start with jobbers well aware of the consequences should his speech be as controversial as forecast in some quarters.

Details of the speech are expected to play an important part when dealings resume in London today.

The FT index, which had been as high as 5.9 at 11 am, closed with a rise of 3.8 on the day at 489.3.

Investors again returned to the government securities market yesterday ahead of any announcement of a cut in the MLR later today and reports that inflation should bottom out by the spring. Buyers pushed prices higher in generally thin trade and the government broker was able to activate some of the new tap Treasury 12 per cent 1986 at £20 1/16.

In long prices advanced by as much as £1 in places while £1 finally gave way to profit taking and the list closed with gains of up to 11/16.

Leading industrials made good headway after a slow start but closed off the top. Metal Box rose 10p to 190p ahead of news about further redundancies. Fisons also recovered after recent weakness, climbing 8p to 138p, in a thin market, as Distillers added 3p to 190p despite earlier reports that distillers were running at only 50 per cent of capacity. Elsewhere, Lucas Industries, hard 5p to 168p on news of its solar energy venture with BP.

Note the call option activity in Turner & Newall. The shares closed last night at 73p and now hover just 3p off the low for the year. Observers say that full-year profits, due on March 11, will be better than expected.

Smaller improvements were seen in ICI at 294p, Reckitt at 180p, Unilever at 455p and Shell at 149p, all 2p to 3p better.

The announcement of sharply lower prices cast a cloud over the stores sector with dealers fearing a new round of price wars.

Heavy selling was reported first thing but prices appeared steadier at the close. Among the more badly affected was Boots, 3p lower at 242p, while Marks & Spencer on 121p and GUS "A" on 480p reverted to unchanged after earlier falls.

Speculative buying lifted Barker & Dobson 3p higher at 16p. In foods Dalgety's impressive first half performance was rewarded with a 6p rise to 280p with Reckitt & Colman still making the most of the cheaper pound up 4p at 196p. British Sugar held firm at 268p after announcing the loss of 750 jobs earlier in the week, but J. Sainsbury lost another 5p to 346p after an adverse broker's circular. T. S. B. House, Forte gained 2p at 192p on the back of the annual report.

Denbyware, where Minister Assets holds 15 per cent, least 14p to 86p on news of the 80p cash offer from Crown House, 2p stronger at 59p. Meanwhile, in engineering F. Pratt dipped 5p to 110p as hopes of a full scale bid from Bardsey, up 3p to 26p, faded.

BPC retreated 2p to 131p after adverse comment about the rescue operation planned by Pergamon Press. But favourable comment lifted Bingham Morris 2p to 16p and Lister 2p to 43p while Vinten, up 8p to a new high of 206p, and Geers Gross, up 5p at 71p, continued to make the most of recent recommendations.

Speculative attention lifted Conder International 10p to 118p, in a thin market. Futura Holdings 4p to 45p. Sangers 8p to 52p, Retford Smith "A" 4p to 152p, and Hawthorn Leslie 6p to 148p, with Manchester Ship Canal rallying 8p to 153p after recent weakness over predicted losses.

Sumrie advanced 2p to 42p as Mr Harvey Michael Ross increased his stake to 10.1 per cent and PMA Holdings expanded 4p to 31p on its disposals and sale and leaseback details. G.M. Firth improved 7p to 67p ahead of figures and planned layoffs and Sidlaw Industries rose 3p to 121p after the chairman's bullish remarks. But shares of Change Wares were suspended at 51p pending capital restructuring.

Boosy & Hanks, the music publishers with a new chief executive, is thought to be on a recovery tack. But some fairly heavy buying over the last couple of days, sending the price to a new high of 146p, suggests there is something more in the wind. The Board says: "We can't understand it."

375p on hopes of an improved offer. Castlefield rose 35p to 510p. Malaysia 12p to 175p, and Malakoff 6p to 125p. Assam Trading "B" was again wanted on reflection of its property interests, rising 7p to 69p.

Equity turnover on February 17 was £104.618m (16,451 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Grand Mer, Boots, Associated Dairies, GEC, GUS "A", Sainsbury, B.P. Shell, Acrow, ICI, Metal Box, Plessey, Reckitt & Colman and BAT.

Traded options: Dealers reported the quietest day in months as total contracts fell to only 290 of which Grand Mer attracted 17.

Traditional options saw calls made in Inverock on 4p. Bullish on 16p and Charterhall on 5p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Birmid Quilcast (F)	210(216)	0.23(0.38)	4.57(8.7)	21(2.3)	—	1.5(4.0)
BOC (T)	303.5(289.9)	14.6(12.4)	1.77(1.68)	—	—	—
Deegan (I)	—	1.94(2.9)	2.22(2.22)	20(3)	—	—
Dalgety (I)	1.159(0.8)	16.2(15.7)	10.9(15.7)	1.0(1.0)	—	—
Eleco Hedges (I)	10.36(9.8)	0.77(0.8)	—	1.0(1.0)	12(3)	—
Episcure (I)	5.4(3.5)	0.42(0.3)	1.6(0.9)	0.3(0.4)	3(4)	—
Foreign & Colonial (F)	—	7.6(8.6)	3.76(3.35)	2.44	—	8.4
Gem Consolidated (F)	—	1.8(1.52)	6.24(5.31)	3.65(—)	3(4)	5.9(5.1)
Greenbank Trust (F)	—	0.06(0.06)	5.18(4.9)	—	—	—
Ldn & Lombard (F)	—	11.6(12.0)	4.16(4.38)	2.2(—)	3(4)	3.6(4.1)
Minister Assets (F)	—	2.13(2.3)	7.4(13.0)	—	—	—
Ural Real Property (I)	—	0.8(0.78)	—	1.25(1.25)	9(4)	—
US Debeater (F)	—	—	5.75(4.81)	3.58(—)	26(5)	5.58(5.58)
W. Cst and Texas (F)	—	0.09(0.09)	1.76(1.76)	1.3(1.25)	7(4)	—
Yeo Inv. (F)	—	1.21(1.0)	13.38(11.1)	7.75(—)	3(4)	12.73(10.75)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividend is shown at 14.25. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. *Gross revenue. †First quarter loss.

Morsina raises stake in Pennine

By Our Financial Staff
Pennine Commercial Holdings, the former motor dealer aggressively expanding into property, announced yesterday that Morsina, an offshoot of the private Isle of Man-based Savings and Investment Bank, has bought a further 2.75m shares, taking its holdings to 16.4 per cent.

Two months ago Morsina sold about 3m shares as part of the settlement of Pennine's purchase of a chain of 11 petrol stations in the North West and Yorkshire for £600,000. At that time Morsina retained 2.5m shares.

It is understood that Morsina's latest stake has come from Post Dye, an Isle of Man registered concern made up of two trusts. Last July, Post Dye let it be known that it was holding on to its shares—in total, nearly a third of Pennine—which it received after the motor group bought an Accrington Housing Estate.

Meanwhile, Pennine has issued its shareholders' circular for the purchase from Prewin Developments of an industrial estate and houses in Greater Manchester and a number of residential development sites.

Denbyware board likely to resist £3.4m offer from Crown House

By Rosemary Unsworth
Denbyware, the stoneware and pottery manufacturer, has received the long-rumoured bid from Crown House, its biggest shareholder.

Crown, which holds 29.9 per cent, has offered 80p cash for the remaining shares, valuing the group at £3.4m. Denbyware's price immediately rose 8p to 86p on the news.

However, another big shareholder, Minister Assets, of which Denbyware's chairman, Mr George Robinson is a director, immediately bought a further 150,000 shares at 80 7/32p, raising its stake from 11.8p to 15.34 per cent.

Another Denbyware director, Mr N. D. Wood, his family and associates, account for a further 25 per cent of the equity. Later the price went to 88p and closed at 86p, 14p better.

Denbyware's board is holding a meeting this morning to discuss its reaction to the offer but it was clear yesterday that it would be extremely unlikely to accept it at present levels.

In the meantime, shareholders were instructed to take no action.

Mr A. Barker, Denbyware's managing director, said that he had not heard of Minister's increased holding until after the shares had been purchased.



Mr George Robinson (left), chairman of Denbyware, and Mr Patrick Edge-Partridge, chairman of Crown House.

He said that although trading had been hard recently and margins had been sacrificed, with borrowings at around 90 per cent of shareholders' funds, the group was still working a full week.

Mr Barker said that although the group had always been aware that a 29.9 per cent holding might eventually result in a takeover offer, Denbyware had been surprised by Crown House's bid, which would go unconditional if the 50 per cent level is reached.

He also said that net assets a share, which were still being calculated precisely, were in excess of 100p a share.

Crown House's financial advisers, Gresham Trust, said that Denbyware would fit in well with the group's glassware operation, particularly for marketing. Denbyware's International Ceramics which last year contributed £350,000 to the £604,000 pretax result, was not the main interest as it was a 50 per cent associate.

£1m Change Wares cash injection

By Philip Robinson
Change Wares, the troubled wiremesh maker and steel stockholder, called a halt to share dealings yesterday and announced that it was considering proposals for a capital reconstruction and an injection of fresh cash.

It is understood that the group is negotiating a scheme under which institutions and individuals, including directors, would subscribe for 10m new ordinary shares at par raising about £1m.

A spokesman for Change Wares advisers, Samuel Montagu said: "We are still negotiating, but because of the sensitivity of the share price we thought it best to suspend the shares. We are not in a position to give any further details, but a wider picture will emerge when the circular to shareholders is sent out, hopefully in a few weeks."

At the suspension price of 6p, Change Wares has a stock market capitalization of just over £1m.

Change Wares, which went public in 1970, hit a profits peak in 1974 of £478,000 but plunged into losses of £665,000 by 1977.

In June of that year Mr Geoffrey Rose joined the group and was chairman until January last year when he and five other directors resigned in what was described as an amicable parting. In 1979 group losses were a record £1m.

Mr Rose was replaced by Mr Harold Chafe. Last October he told shareholders at the annual meeting that trading continued to be difficult and it was pointless to encourage the belief that the company would earn a profit in that year.

Briefly

Greenbank Trust: Revenue 1980 £41,400 (235,000 after tax of £18,388). EPS 5.18p (4.9p). NAV per share 111p (92p). In view of proposed bid by Malton, Financial Services decision on bid is being deferred until new board has taken control.

Rue Estates Holdings: Turnover for year to June 30, 1980 £11,200m. Pretax income £1,000m (1,000,000). EPS 7.4p (13.0p). Dividend 1.43p gross (6.42p).

Freeman Investment Trust: Dividend for 1980 £2.20 gross (15.35p). Pretax revenue £1.21m (11m). EPS 13.38p (11.11p). Comparisons exclude special dividend received from Shell of £2,005 gross and special dividend of 1.05p paid in distribution. NAV per share 307.1p (251.4p). Free scrip issue one-for-one.

Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust: Dividend for 1980, income £2.75m (2.75m). Earnings a share 5.75p (3.25p). NAV per share prior charges at nominal value 160p (123.9p) and at market value £160 (123.9p). Proposed free scrip issue of one-for-one.

Weir Group: Proposed early repayment of the outstanding £2,750,000 of 10 per cent secured loan stock 1988/93 and £573,615 of 9 per cent unsecured loan stock 1988/93, both at par.

London and Lombard Investment Trust: Pretax revenue £11.5m (11.5m). EPS 4.26p (4.26p). NAV per share 130p (101p). Comparative earnings figure includes non-recurring dividends from a number of companies previously restricted by legislation from declaring higher dividends. Dividend 5.42p gross (5.85p).

Kilburn Development Syndicate: Acquisitions by Castlefield (Kilburn) Rubber Estates and Hongkong (Selangor) Rubber of 388 and 9.361 shares on February 17. Harrison and Crofted now has an interest in 321,000 shares 40.77 per cent.

De Beers reduces offerings

De Beers is reducing the number of stones on offer at its current sight, according to diamond traders in London. The reduction is estimated at around 20 per cent.

The reduction occurs against the background of a generally depressed diamond market. Low retail sales of jewelry have caused high diamond stocks in the cutting centres.

But a spokesman for the Diamond Trading Company, a London selling organization closely associated with De Beers, said yesterday: "We are doing no more than carrying out the traditional policy in time of recession."

The spokesman added: "We're not recession proof. All we can do is hang on until demand returns." He confirmed that this week's sight is smaller than recent ones. A sight is an offering by De Beers to diamond traders of uncut stones. There are 10 sights a year in London.

De Beers stresses, however, that sight prices have not been cut. In the normal way, dealers can

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Silvermines buys Marathon stake

Silvermines, the Dublin-based mining and energy investment company, has agreed to buy a 24.7 per cent interest in the royalty of the producing part of the Marathon concession area off the south coast of Ireland, for £2.55m. It sold 7.16 per cent stake in Aras Energy for £2.48m yesterday.

Silvermines still owns 10.2 per cent of Aras and intends to remain its largest single shareholder. Mr Ted Russell is chairman of both companies, which also share two more directors.

Silvermines will pay \$578m to Cambridge Royalty of Houston, Texas, for the 24.7 per cent stake in the Marathon Royalty concession's producing area, the Kinsale Head gas field, and for half of Cambridge Royalty's share of the royalty on the non-producing acreage.

The cost-cutting programme is being intensified and, depending on the Budget, there may be several hundred more redundancies.

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Eleco Holdings Limited Interim Statement

Half Year to 31st December 1980

The profits for the first six months held up well despite trading conditions. However, owing to the deepening of the recession, particularly in the construction industry, it is unlikely that the profits in the second six months will reach those reported for the first half of the year. Although the present trading climate is bleak, every effort is being made to minimise its effects. Moreover, comfort can be taken in the knowledge that the growth of our property portfolio will, in due time, more than compensate for any downturn in trading profits.

Frank Webster, Chairman

Salient points

1980 1979

Turnover £'000 £'000

Pre-Tax Profit 10,374 9,897

Profit After Tax 773 810

Interim Dividend Per Share 1.0p 48p

Net Profit before Tax 526 427

Taxation 273 222

Profit after Tax 253 205

Retained Surplus 111 62

Earnings per Share 2.7p 2.2p

Group Revenue 2,466 1,868

Net Profit before Tax 526 427

Taxation 273 222

Profit after Tax 253 205

Retained Surplus 111 62

Earnings per Share 2.7p 2.2p

High Swiss rates

Four of the big Swiss banks have raised their interest rates on customer time deposits with maturities from three to 12 months to six per cent from 5.5 per cent.

Net profits up \$30m at Motorola

Motorola, the American electronics and appliances group, has reported net profits of \$186.1m (£82.3m) for 1980, up sharply from \$154.3m the year before. Sales rose to \$3,100m from \$2,700m.

Fourth quarter net profits jumped to \$49.1m from \$36.3m on sales of \$803m against \$762.8m.

Motorola said the results for 1980 were after a special charge of \$13.1m from a tax credit of \$15.4m caused by the disposition of certain assets of

Motorola's after-market Auto-sound business and the investment in Autovox, an Italian corporation. The resulting after-tax credit to earnings was \$2.3m.

The 1979 results included a special charge of \$7.9m for the disposition of the company's electronic timepiece component business and other businesses.

Kerr-McGee budget
Kerr-McGee said its 1981 capital and exploration budget would be more than \$750m (\$332m), a 30 per cent increase over 1980.

The 1981 capital and exploration budget includes energy related exploration and development projects worth \$700m.

US Realty
Two groups of investors, one in Hongkong and the other in Chicago, say they hold a combined 20.9 per cent stake in United States Realty Investments and will seek representation on United States Realty's board.

In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing, Central Park of Hongkong said it had acquired a 17.1 per cent stake for about \$8.24m (£3.6m). SZRL Investments of Chicago said it had acquired a 3.8 per cent stake for about \$1.8m.

Danison Oil
Danison Oil reports a first quarter net income of \$1,066m (£465m) against \$985,000. Revenue rose to \$6.6m

Downturn at Whirlpool

Net profits of Whirlpool, the Michigan-based home appliance manufacturer, slipped to \$101.7m (£45m) in 1980, down from \$110.9m the year before despite a sharp improvement in the fourth quarter. Sales for the year were down fractionally at \$2,240m.

Net profits in the fourth quarter jumped to \$34.3m from \$25.8m in 1979, on sales of \$553m, against \$519m.

For the latest quarter the company also reported net earnings of \$304m and other income of \$10.9m. A year ago net earnings from affiliated companies was \$3.5m and other income was \$1.2m.

For the year, income from affiliated companies fell to \$12m from \$17.7m, but other income soared to \$29.2m from \$15.2m.

At that time, the Inachape Group already owned 26 per cent of Soapcase through its subsidiary, Dodwell Shipping.

Dodwell will continue to act as agent for Soapcase, which will still operate from its present headquarters in Oakland, California, a spokesman for CY Tung said.

Soapcase operates eight container vessels, which serve Far East and United States west coast ports.

The CY Tung Group said in Hongkong it had bought Dodwell and Co's 49 per cent interest in Soapcase Container Service for an undisclosed sum, to make Soapcase a wholly-owned subsidiary.

In December, the CY Tung and Inachape groups jointly purchased 74 per cent of Pacific Soapcase, Soapcase's original name, from Seacair Lines of the United States.

At that time, the Inachape Group already owned 26 per cent of Soapcase through its subsidiary, Dodwell Shipping.

Dodwell will continue to act as agent for Soapcase, which will still operate from its present headquarters in Oakland, California, a spokesman for CY Tung said.

Soapcase operates eight container vessels, which serve Far East and United States west coast ports.

DALGETY Food and Agricultural Products

- Half-year profits show improvement at £16.2 million.
- Interim dividend 11p per share (1979—11p).
- Spillers is fulfilling the hopes which prompted its acquisition.
-

FINANCIAL NEWS

Evered still backs Francis bid

Mr John Field, vice-chairman of loss-making engineering group Evered, has again urged shareholders to accept a 22p a share offer from Francis Industries, following firm rejection of the bid by di Arabian shareholders a 29.96 per cent stake. The offer closes on February 24 and Francis is expected to announce its decision on whether to accept the bid. Mr Field said it is becoming difficult to predict any rise in demand and would shareholders and employees best if Evered became of Francis.

Mr Saudi, Mr Yeslam Ladin, is thought to head the SA-Swiss committee, which recently disclosed a 7 per cent stake in Evered. The takeover panel has no evidence of a concert giving rise to a bid under 34 of the Takeover Code. Shares stood at 23p Friday.

Dividend raised

Episcure Holdings is still doing ahead after achieving results in 1979-80, the half-year to December 31st, pretax profits rose from £423,000 on turnover of £3.89m to £545m. Mr R. J. Brealey, the chairman, tells shareholders because of acquisitions and sales last year, the results

are not wholly comparable with the previous year. Net tangible assets attributable to shareholders have continued to rise and the board confirmed its confidence in the outcome of the current year's trading by lifting the interim dividend from 0.57p to 0.71p gross.

Ashley Industrial optimistic

Having completed its reorganization, the board of Ashley Industrial Trust thinks that the group is likely to achieve increased turnover in the remaining subsidiaries during the financial year to April 30. The directors feel justified in approving the payment of an interim dividend of 1.5p per share, to shareholders and in recommending in due course the payment of a final dividend of 2.0p making a total of 3.5p for the year.

US Debenture Corp revenue up for year

United States Debenture Corporation reports a gross revenue for the year to January 31 of £6,480m, against £5,587m. This was struck before deducting debenture interest of £101,000, the same as last year, and loan stock interest of £20,000 against £32,000.

The profit attributable to ordinary shareholders was

£3.9m, compared with £3.28m. Earnings per share rose from 4.81p to 5.75p. The net asset value per share was 133.6p against 118.9p. The gross dividend was held at 7.99p.

Interim profits dip at Eleco Holdings

Pretax profits of Eleco Holdings, the St Albans electrical engineering and construction group, slipped to £773,000 in the six months to December 31 against £810,000 the year before. Turnover was slightly ahead at £10.4m, against £9.9m.

Martin Newsagent pushes sales up 13pc

Mr J. B. H. Martin, chairman of Martin the Newsagent told the annual meeting that retail sales, exclusive of VAT, for the first 19 weeks of the year to February 8, 1981, were £40.85m, an increase of 13 per cent over sales for the same period last year.

With regard to expansion he said: "We expect to open 12 new sites, and redevelop six existing branches during our financial year to September 27. These will add some 48,000 sq ft to our retail trading area. Our policy of closing branches which become uneconomic will continue."

Business appointments

Chairman named Hampton old mining
Wakehurst has been named a director and elected chairman of Hampton Gold Mining after the resignation of Mr Ley.
K. P. Robinson has become managing director of Marconi Automation Systems in succession to Mr T. May, who leaves the company to take up another electronics industry.
Nigel Jackson has been made general director of Farm Feed stores.
Brian Jarman is now a director of the Medical Services and Life Assurance.
John Lamb has become managing and representative director of Westminster Bank's opened representative office in London, based in Stock-

Pick and shovel give way to computer age

I regretfully have to report that the old-time prospector is dead. That colourful figure of a thousand gold rushes and minor movie parts is to be replaced by a computer programme. Now any geologist who happens to have a computer terminal and a telephone about his person can run up an almost instant assessment of his find's potential, using only basic information.

The new service is called "Explore" and is offered by Tymshare, an American computer services company. Tymshare is a publicly-quoted company in America with a 1980 turnover of about £240m (£106m). Its British subsidiary, Tymshare UK, is 33 per cent owned by Unilever Computer Services, a subsidiary of the huge food and trading group.

Tymshare's program does not really replace the prospector. What it does replace is his judgment at that critical moment when he-or more likely these days a company-has a find but needs to evaluate its potential before deciding whether to proceed. It is a tool for prefeasibility study, giving a broad picture of the deposit's characteristics.

Explore provides this assessment by evaluating the deposit from four points of view: the mining method, capital and operating costs, minimum reserves and cash flow. In doing so it offers the geologist and his head office two features unique to mining evaluation programmes: a data base of costs, which is revised every six months, and the opportunity to work backwards from a desired rate of return, grade or deposit size to the mine characteristics required to meet those objectives.

The trick is that it enables geologists to think financially with only minimal information about their deposit and the company's financial goals. In computer jargon it is "friendly" and "interactive": to you and me, it speaks English and gives direct and immediate answers. One great advantage, as seen by possible customers, is that an exploration manager and his head office can acquire quickly and simultaneously the same information and conclusions.

Apart from giving answers on mining methods (for example, open pit or underground), operating and capital costs based on American figures, and the return either desired or obtained, Explore also provides cash flow analyses along normal lines.

The latter service is secondary to the main purpose which, Tymshare stresses, is prefeasibility analysis. More elaborate financial services are offered by other companies, but in any case are better suited to a later stage of project development.

The exploration manager who plugs in his terminal from any

of 30 countries (excluding South Africa at present) is automatically taken through a series of questions, to which he need provide only simple answers: grade estimated from drillings, deposit size and more subjective answers to questions about the location of the site of rock strength.

One advantage of the system - which also saves money - is that the user can skip parts, substitute his own information - for example on costs - and

Mining

run the programme over several days. But it is here that the two chief objections arise.

Since launching the system in this country and America at the beginning of the year, Tymshare has obviously tried to sell it to mining companies. Mr Andrew Shaw-Hamilton, manager of Tymshare United Kingdom's energy division, claims that the service is much cheaper than equivalents. A full program run would cost between £1,500 and £5,000 and take less than a day. Similar work by a consultant would cost up to £15,000 and need two months. The subscription to Tymshare is £50 a month.

But possible users point out that costs can rise sharply if the program is used frequently, and especially if it is overridden. Big mining companies could find developing their own programs cheaper. Nevertheless, smaller companies, without such internal capability, could prefer to use Explore.

All companies must consider, however, whether the data base and other assumptions are adequate to their needs. Costs are drawn from 50 American mines and updated twice a year in current rather than inflation-adjusted prices. An instance of the other assumptions, of which there must necessarily be many, is that a deposit with more than 300 feet of overburden is most likely to be exploited underground.

Yet it is still early days to judge the merits and unavoidable common-sense assumptions built in to the program. One early opinion might be that the quality of information reflects the type of decision required: What should we find and is the project worth pursuing?

These are the questions over which every prospector has agonized since mining began. When the next mining boom gets under way, the well-equipped prospector will be equipped a computer terminal alongside his pick and shovel.

Michael Prest
Mining Correspondent

Bank Base Rates

Bank Capital in and deal
Capital - where Mr n Ferguson Lacey iced yesterday that he appointed chairman - United States subsidiary Capital Resources Inc, pay Dr Paul Temple, a chief executive of Capital, £170,000 cash ve him 350,000 new EC for £847,000 worth of in the Western United. The deal is subject to older's approval and if ed, Energy Capital ces Inc will issue shares some £2.5m.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Divid	Yld %	P:E
29 Airsprung Group	64	-	6.7	10.5	5.8
21 Armitage & Rhodes	43	+1	1.4	3.3	17.7
921 Bardon Hill	190	-	9.7	5.1	7.1
88 Deborah Services	95	+1	5.5	5.8	4.7
58 Frank Horsell	106	-	6.4	6.0	3.3
51 Frederick Parker	52	+1	11.0	21.2	2.4
74 George Blair	74	-	3.1	4.2	-
39 Jackson Group	108	+2	6.9	6.4	4.1
103 James Burrough	120	-	7.9	6.6	9.8
244 Robert Jenkins	330	-	31.3	9.5	-
50 Scruttons "A"	217	-	15.1	7.0	4.2
215 Torday Limited	217	-	15.1	7.0	4.2
10 Twinlock Ord	112	-	15.0	20.8	-
69 Twinlock 15% ULS	72	-	3.0	7.7	6.0
35 Unilock Holdings	39	-	5.7	5.5	5.7
81 Walter Alexander	103	-	12.1	4.6	4.3
181 W. S. Yeates	262	-	12.1	4.6	4.3

AVERAGE EARNINGS

Index numbers for average earnings of employees in all industries and services seasonally adjusted covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment.

Department of Employment.			
	Index (Jan 1978 = 100)	Change over previous 12 months %	Change over 3 months annualized rate %
1979			
Nov	162.1	19.2	22.4
Dec	164.5	19.7	30.5
1980			
Jan	164.2	20.2	14.6
Feb	169.0	18.6	18.2
March	172.9	20.3	22.1
April	175.3	21.3	28.9
May	177.0	21.3	20.3
June	182.3	21.7	29.6
July	182.8	18.9	18.2
Aug	187.6	21.7	26.2
Sept	194.1	26.1	28.5
Oct	190.5	20.1	12.2
Nov	192.6	18.9	11.1
Dec (p)	196.5	18.4	5.0
(p) = provisional			

(a) = provisional

Information for Siemens shareholders

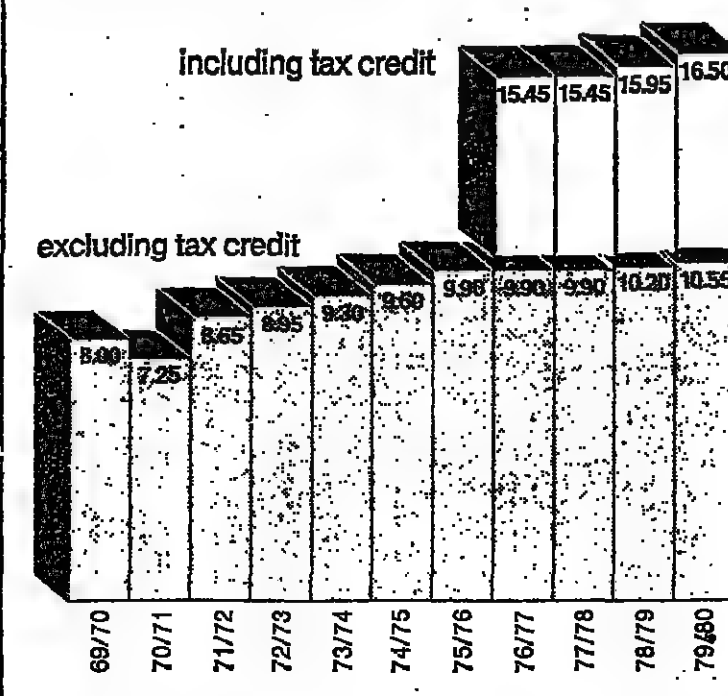
Siemens prepares for slower growth

While new orders and sales increased during the first quarter of the current 1980/81 financial year, i.e. from 1st October to 31st December 1980, growth rates were below levels recorded for the comparable period a year ago. In view of the weakening world economy, we foresee an even further slowdown over the remainder of the year.

New orders, which rose 12% worldwide for a total of £1,952m during the first three months of the current financial year, grew at a slower pace than last year when they increased 15% during the first quarter. With new orders valued at £922m, a gain of 9% vs. 20% last year, domestic business showed a clearly diminishing rate of improvement; international business on the other hand bettered last year's 10% growth, increasing 16% for a total of £1,030m for the period under review. While long-term major projects and systems business proved a good source of orders, electronic components and standard products, which are more sensitive to changes of economic climate, began showing signs of weakness. Among the orders of larger magnitude received from overseas customers were contracts for power generation and distribution systems for Saudi Arabia, five generators for the Taquranu and Rosana hydroelectric power plants in Brazil, and local telephone cable networks for Egypt and Nigeria. In addition, the Medical Engineering Group was awarded several orders for computer tomograph units, while Kraftwerk Union received a commission to supply Spain with a 350-MW steam turbine set for its La Rola II power plant.

In £m	1/10/79 to 31/12/79	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	Change
New orders	1,541	1,952	+26%
Domestic business	849	922	+9%
International business	892	1,030	+16%
Sales	1,525	1,666	+9%
Domestic business	685	785	+15%
International business	840	881	+5%

Sales grew 9% for a total of £1,666m, a gain well below the 16% mark set during the first quarter of last year. Domestic business, with sales of £785m, brought a 15% increase, while international sales reached £881m, a 5% rise. The Medical Engineering Group and the Data and Information Systems Group showed the largest rates of growth. Inventory rose 7% for a total of £3,343m.



The total number of employees remained essentially unchanged during the first quarter of the current financial year. In the Federal Republic of Germany there was a loss of approximately 2,000 due to the scheduled departure of temporary student labour and normal fluctuation; abroad, there was a gain of about the same number owing to the incorporation into our statistics of personnel in the employ of companies acquired the previous year. Although the average number of employees was up only 3% over the first quarter figure for last year, employment cost was 12% higher, totalling £798m.

In thousands	30/9/80	31/12/80	Change
Employees	344	344	0%
Domestic operations	235	233	-1%
International operations	109	111	+2%

While spending for property, plant and equipment was 10% higher than for the same period last year, there were no major acquisitions during the first quarter. Thus, at £82m, total capital expenditure and investment was 6% less than the comparable figure for the preceding year.

In £m	1/10/79 to 31/12/79	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	87	82	-6%
Net income after taxes	35	30	-14%
In % of sales	2.3	1.8	-22%

The net margin - net income as a percentage of sales - was lower this year than last, namely 1.8% as compared with 2.3%, since the rising costs of wages and salaries, raw materials, purchases of semifinished and finished products, and external services could not be passed on to customers in the form of corresponding price increases. This was particularly true of international business where competition is becoming steadily greater.

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on 31st December 1980: £1 = DM 4.678.



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international management
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to counsel Executives of
the world's largest cor-
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and around London.
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essential, as a company
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needed to help establish the
city based UK subsidiary of
this American Finance Com-
pany. You will be required to
handle all office adminis-
tration and to liaise effec-
tively with prestigious clients. Age
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person in line for a
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good sh/ty skills.
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an experienced P.A. with high
level of secretarial skills, per-
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gence and sound appearance.
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ful.

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salary, 4 weeks holiday, L.V.'s,
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medical scheme.
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LEGAL NOTICES
also on page 12

In the matter of the Bermuda Com-
panies Act 1923 and the Companies
Act 1947, I, the undersigned,
a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of
Bermuda, do hereby certify that
the following is a list of the
names of the persons who are
entitled to receive dividends in
respect of the shares of the
company named in the schedule
herein attached, as at the date
of the dividend, and that the
dividend has been paid to them
in full.

TAKE NOTICE that the under-
signed, R. W. KEMPE, of 150
St. James's Street, London
W.C.2, do hereby certify that
the following is a list of the
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A mature and responsible secretary is sought
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CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 Open University. Title to the Earth. 7.05 Paris: Imperial City. 7.30 Handicapped in the Community. Closedown at 7.55.
9.00 For Schools. College: Pearl Harbour to Hiroshima. 9.25 Geometry. 9.47 Play Now. pay later. 10.15 Murray's Round. 10.35 Scene: consumer rights. 11.05 K's Maths: sequences. 11.30 Searchlight. 11.45 The 11.55 Dumdauld. 12.20 Closedown.
12.45 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Includes Tony Blair's weekly film item. Film Focus. 1.15. 2.00 You and Me: Vicki Luke, with lines and circles (r). 2.15 For Schools. College: Music Time. 2.40 Television Club: You Can Do Anything.
3.00 Chances Rayner's Casebook: Repeated scenes about matrimonial problems. Today, three young people discuss the difficulty they experience in coping with other people (r). 3.55 Play School: John Dale's story Mr Smart and Mrs Wace. 4.20 Touché. Furtile: cartoon by John Smith. 4.25 Jackson: Julie Dawn Cole reads part 4 of Dorothy Hays's The Bears Upstairs. 4.40 Scooby and Scrappy Doo: cartoon. 5.00 Night Ghouls of Wonderland. 5.00

John Craven's Newsround: Five minutes of news sense and common sense. 5.05 Blue Peter: Eye-witness accounts of Queen Victoria's funeral procession. 5.35 The Saturday Show: with Leonard Rossiter. 5.40 News with Kenneth Kendall. 5.55 Regional news magazines. 6.00 The Saturday Show: with Leonard Rossiter. 6.30 The second of Tony Wilkinson's Down and Out films. 6.45 News. 6.55 Tomorrow's World: Science for everyone. Items on an inflatable fire escape and the use of ice in the packing of oil rig drilling platforms. 7.20 Top of the Pops: The records which the pop fans are buying. 7.30 The Saturday Show: with Leonard Rossiter. 7.55 De De De: Second screening of this comedy series (written by Dad's Army writers Jimmy Perry and David Croft) set in a holiday camp in the 1950s. With Simon Cadell as the newly-appointed entertainment manager (r). 8.30 Partners: Richard Waring's comedy series continues. Divorced husband and wife (Derek Waring, Mel Martin) are locked together in a small house. 8.40 Scooby and Scrappy Doo: cartoon. 9.25 Mollie Afterschool: Episode

BBC 2

7.30 am Open University. Unemployment. Closedown at 7.55.
11.00 Play School: John Dale's story Mr Smart and Mrs Wace (also on BBC 1 at 3.55). Closedown at 12.25.
4.50 pm Open University: The First Years of Life. 5.15 Childhood 5.10: starting school. 5.40 Charlie Chaplin: Work (1915). Charlie is a whimsical, eccentric, and includes the sequence in which he does a pantomime of his sad life story. With Edna Purcell. 6.10 Magsie: Part 2 of this nine-part serial about a 17-year-old Glasgow girl (Kirsty Miller) beset by problems, emotional and domestic. 6.25 Music-Hall Greats: Dreaming (1944). Bud Flanagan and Chesney

Allen as two British soldiers at Ascot, in Africa and behind the German lines in the last year. They sing Home Town, Underneath the Arches, and the title song. Director: John Baxter. 7.50 News. With sub-titles for the deaf and hearing. Also weather forecast. 8.00 Writers and Places: A Terrible Chemistry. Last in the series. The writer, Nadine Gordimer, is filmed in Johannesburg, Soweto, the mine compounds of the West Rand and the white-owned farmlands around Johannesburg. It is the story of one European's growing awareness of black Africa and the politics of apartheid. 8.30 Russell Harry: Tonight's edition comes from the United States, and Mr Harry will co-present it with Eileen Prose of Channel 5

THAMES

9.30 For Schools. Handicapped children's unit. 9.52 Journeys: 10.00 Consumer protection. 10.31 Evolution for A-level students. 10.53 Bacteria for A-level students. 11.10 Science: 11.20. 11.30. 11.40. 11.50. 12.00. 12.10. 12.20. 12.30. 12.40. 12.50. 1.00. 1.10. 1.20. 1.30. 1.40. 1.50. 2.00. 2.10. 2.20. 2.30. 2.40. 2.50. 3.00. 3.10. 3.20. 3.30. 3.40. 3.50. 4.00. 4.10. 4.20. 4.30. 4.40. 4.50. 5.00. 5.10. 5.20. 5.30. 5.40. 5.50. 6.00. 6.10. 6.20. 6.30. 6.40. 6.50. 7.00. 7.10. 7.20. 7.30. 7.40. 7.50. 8.00. 8.10. 8.20. 8.30. 8.40. 8.50. 9.00. 9.10. 9.20. 9.30. 9.40. 9.50. 10.00. 10.10. 10.20. 10.30. 10.40. 10.50. 11.00. 11.10. 11.20. 11.30. 11.40. 11.50. 12.00. 12.10. 12.20. 12.30. 12.40. 12.50. 1.00. 1.10. 1.20. 1.30. 1.40. 1.50. 2.00. 2.10. 2.20. 2.30. 2.40. 2.50. 3.00. 3.10. 3.20. 3.30. 3.40. 3.50. 4.00. 4.10. 4.20. 4.30. 4.40. 4.50. 5.00. 5.10. 5.20. 5.30. 5.40. 5.50. 6.00. 6.10. 6.20. 6.30. 6.40. 6.50. 7.00. 7.10. 7.20. 7.30. 7.40. 7.50. 8.00. 8.10. 8.20. 8.30. 8.40. 8.50. 9.00. 9.10. 9.20. 9.30. 9.40. 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